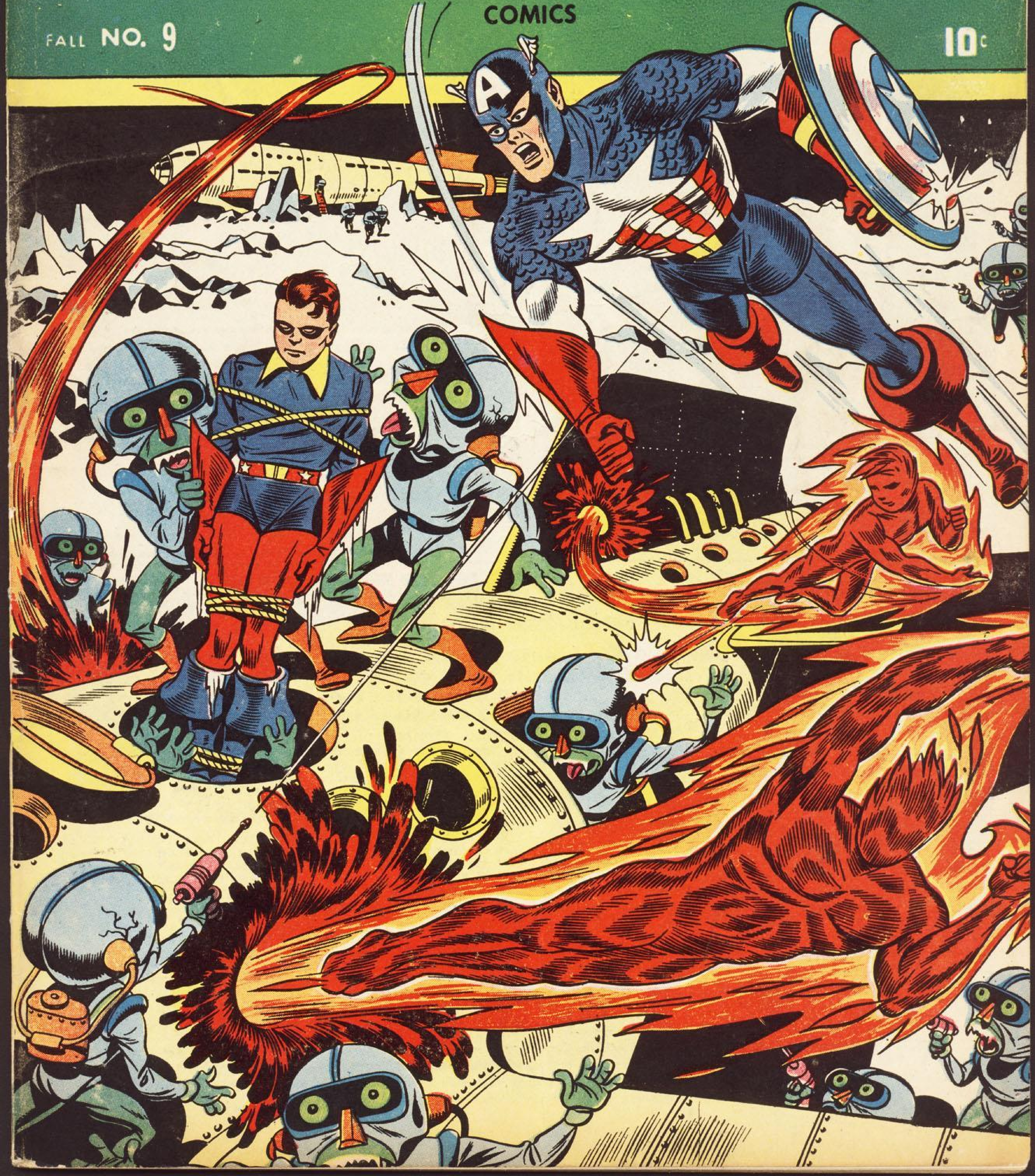
**HUMAN TORCH** **CAPTAIN AMERICA** *Featured in*

cle

# ALL SELECT COMICS

FALL NO. 9

10¢



# Given

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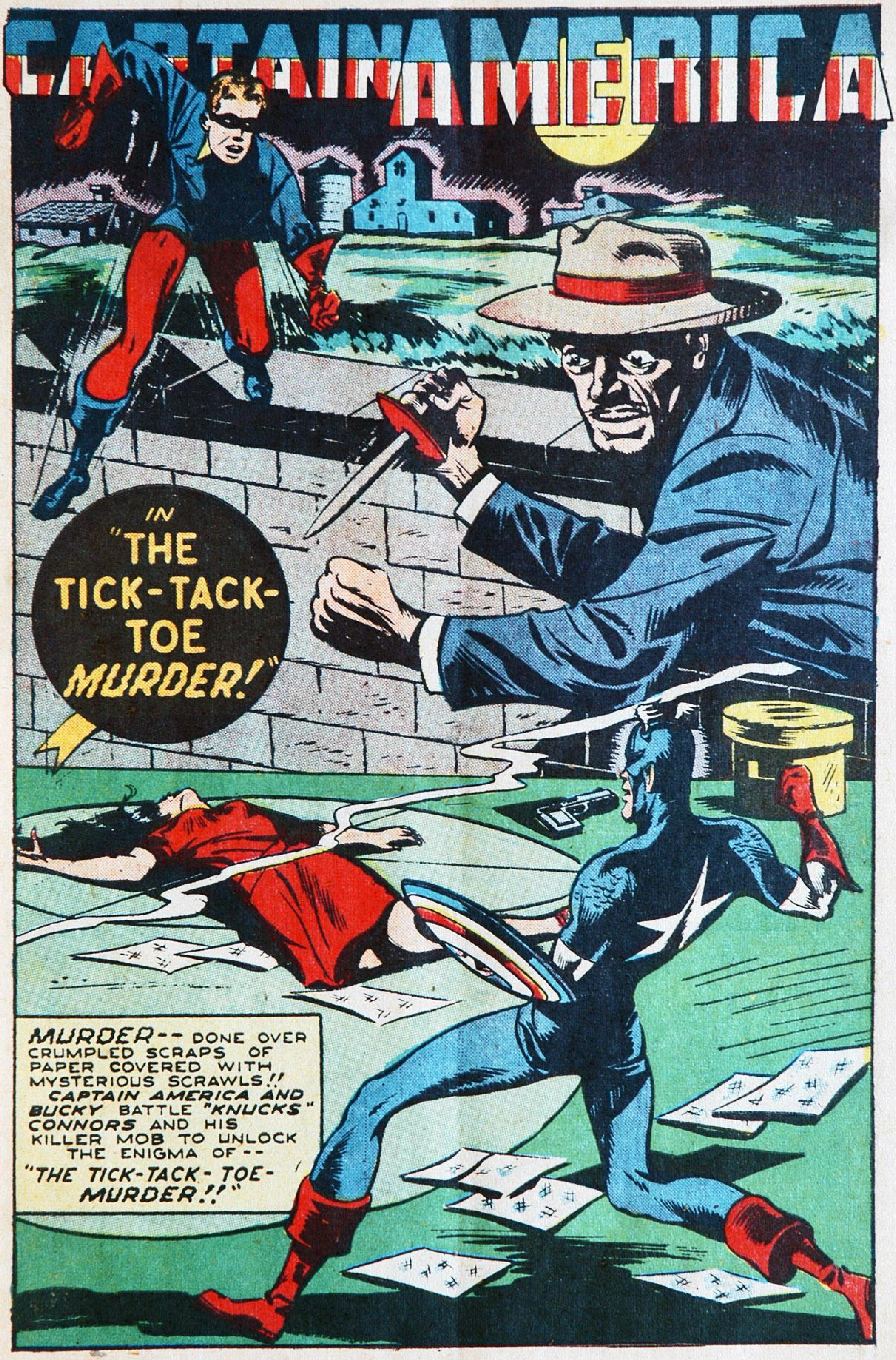
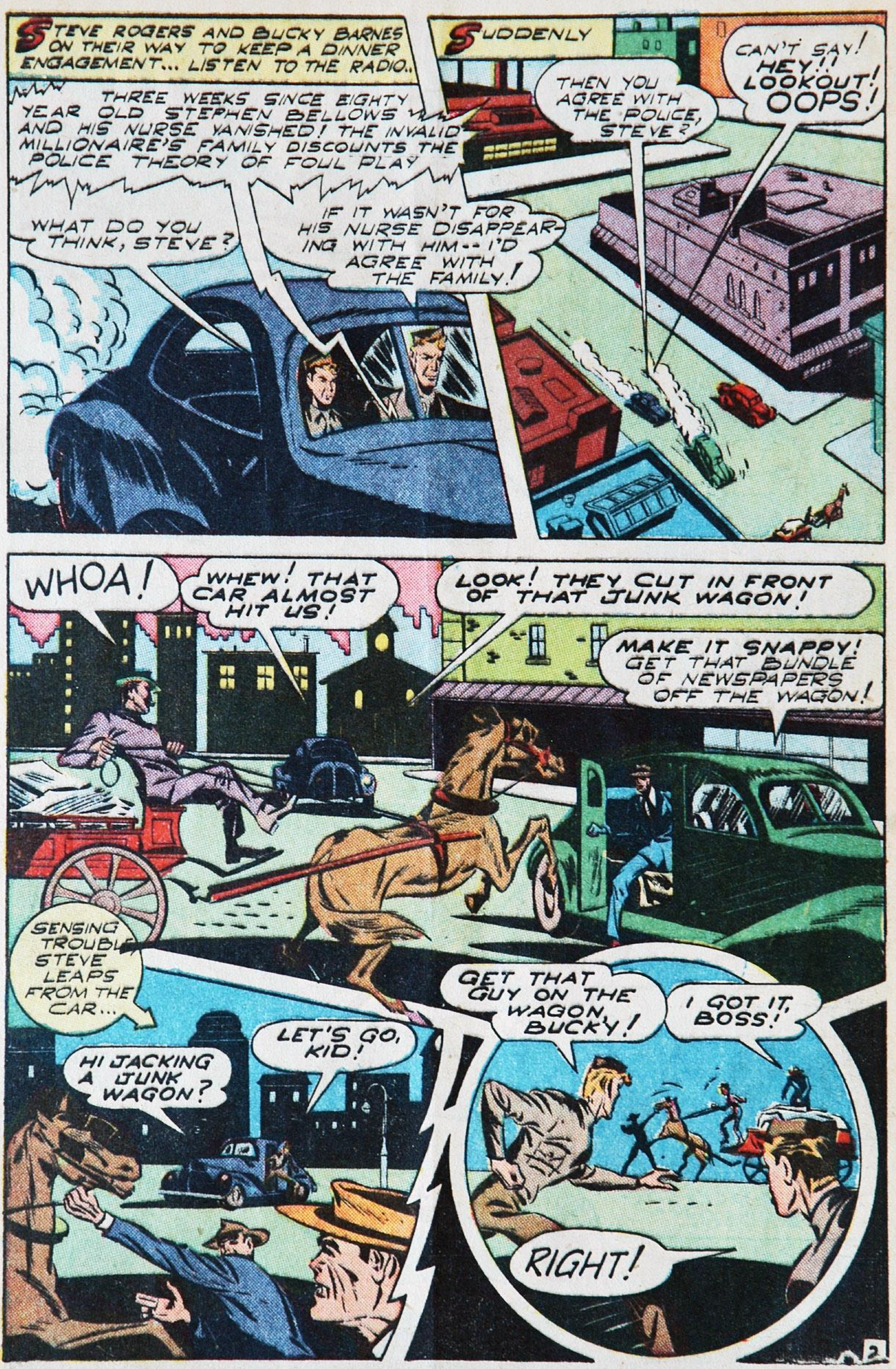
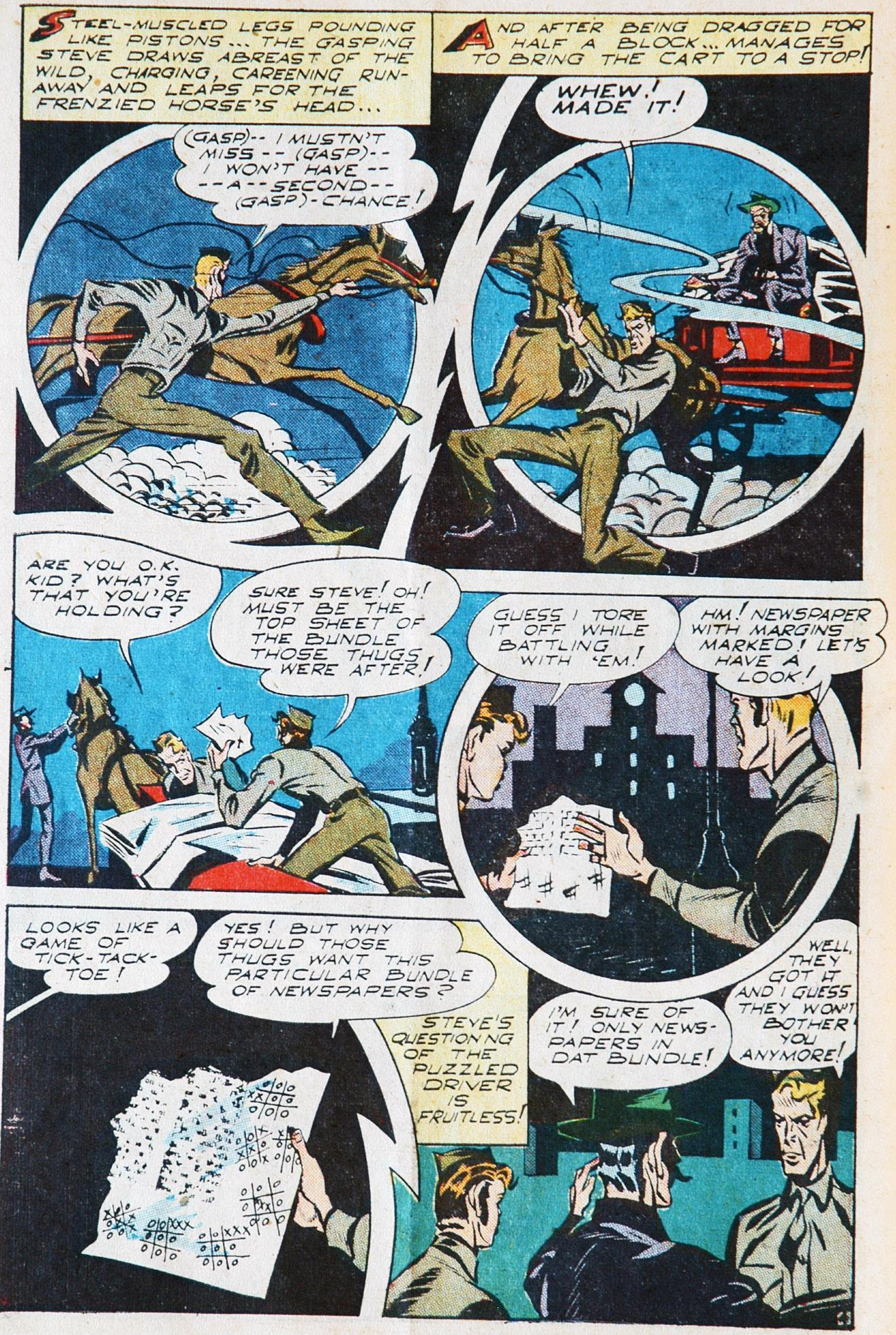

CAPTAIN AMERICA
IN "THE TICK-TACK-TOE MURDER!"
MURDER-- DONE OVER CRUMPLED SCRAPS OF PAPER COVERED WITH MYSTERIOUS SCRAWLS!! CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY BATTLE "KNUCKS" CONNORS AND HIS KILLER MOB TO UNLOCK THE ENIGMA OF -- "THE TICK-TACK-TOE-MURDER!!"

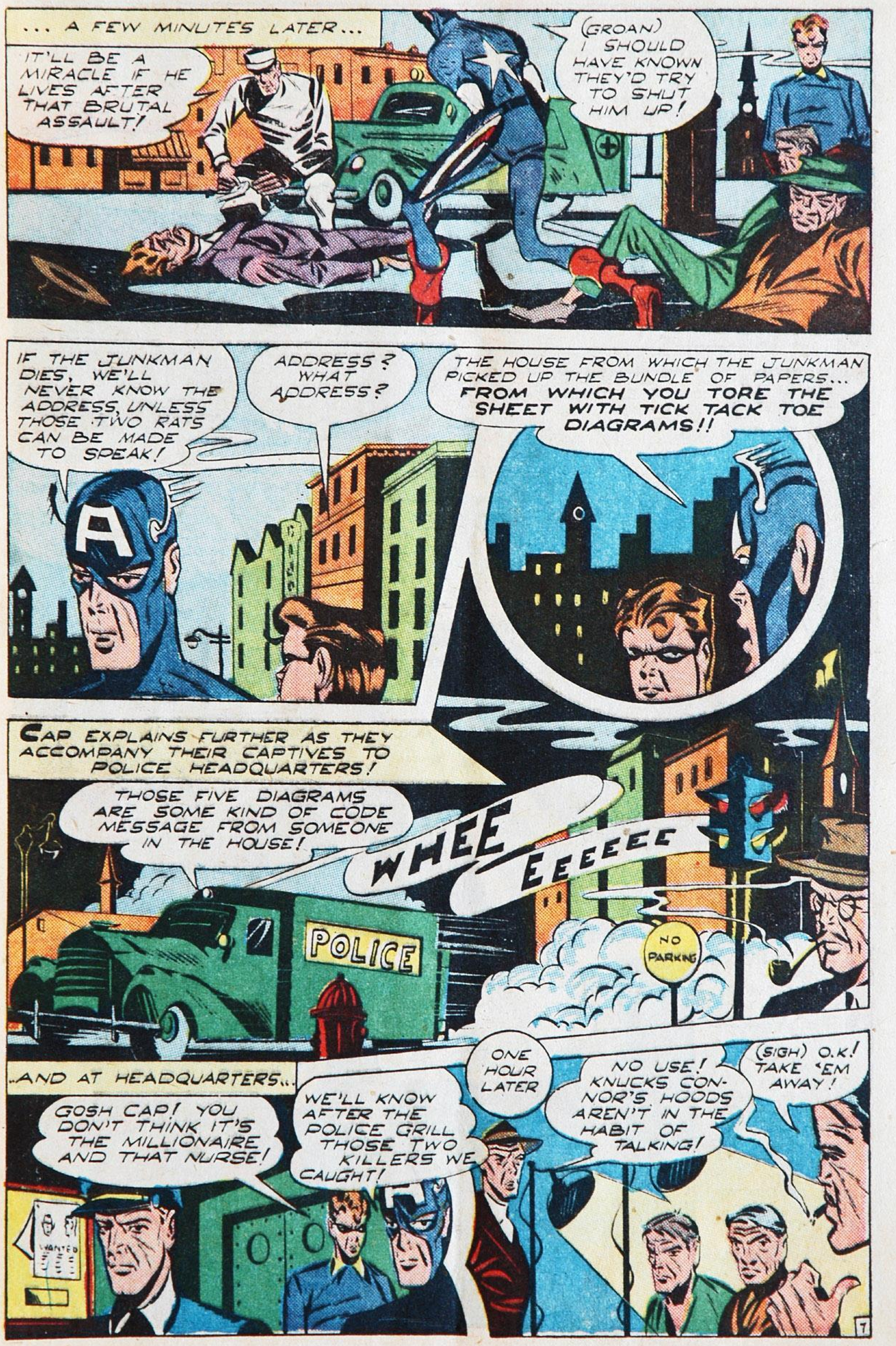

STEVE ROGERS AND BUCKY BARNES ON THEIR WAY TO KEEP A DINNER ENGAGEMENT... LISTEN TO THE RADIO..
THREE WEEKS SINCE EIGHTY YEAR OLD STEPHEN BELLOWS AND HIS NURSE VANISHED! THE INVALID MILLIONAIRE'S FAMILY DISCOUNTS THE POLICE THEORY OF FOUL PLAY
WHAT DO YOU THINK, STEVE?
IF IT WASN'T FOR HIS NURSE DISAPPEARING WITH HIM-- I'D AGREE WITH THE FAMILY!
SUDDENLY
THEN YOU AGREE WITH THE POLICE, STEVE?
CAN'T SAY! HEY!! LOOKOUT! OOPS!
WHOA!
WHEW! THAT CAR ALMOST HIT US!
LOOK! THEY CUT IN FRONT OF THAT JUNK WAGON!
MAKE IT SNAPPY! GET THAT BUNDLE OF NEWSPAPERS OFF THE WAGON!
SENSING TROUBLE STEVE LEAPS FROM THE CAR...
HI JACKING A JUNK WAGON?
LET'S GO, KID!
GET THAT GUY ON THE WAGON, BUCKY!
I GOT IT, BOSS!
RIGHT!

AND WHILE STEVE BRACES TO MEET THE RUSH OF THE LEADER... BUCKY TRIES TO PREVENT HIS TWO THUGS FROM ESCAPING WITH THE MYSTERIOUS BUNDLE OF OLD NEWSPAPERS...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS MEDDLER!
OW!
ZUNK!!
I'LL FIX THE BRAT! GET GOING NOW!
R-R-RIPP-P!!
BRASS KNUCKLES, EH? YOU MUST BE AN OLD TIMER IN CRIME!
TAKE DAT, OOPS!
MEANWHILE... THE PANICKED ANIMAL BOLTS MADLY DOWN THE STREET!
GOOD GOSH! BUCKY'S ON THAT WAGON!
STEVE CHOOSES TO LET THE THUGS ESCAPE AS HE PLUNGES MADLY AFTER THE WAGON
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO BEAT IT!
BUCKY! BUCKY!


STEEL-MUSCLED LEGS POUNDING LIKE PISTONS... THE GASPING STEVE DRAWS ABREAST OF THE WILD, CHARGING, CAREENING RUNAWAY AND LEAPS FOR THE FRENZIED HORSE'S HEAD...
(GASP)-- I MUSTN'T MISS -- (GASP)-- I WON'T HAVE -- -- A -- SECOND-- (GASP)- CHANCE!
AND AFTER BEING DRAGGED FOR HALF A BLOCK... MANAGES TO BRING THE CART TO A STOP!
WHEW! MADE IT!
ARE YOU O.K. KID? WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE HOLDING?
SURE STEVE! OH! MUST BE THE TOP SHEET OF THE BUNDLE THOSE THUGS WERE AFTER!
GUESS I TORE IT OFF WHILE BATTLING WITH 'EM!
HM! NEWSPAPER WITH MARGINS MARKED! LET'S HAVE A LOOK!
LOOKS LIKE A GAME OF TICK-TACK-TOE!
YES! BUT WHY SHOULD THOSE THUGS WANT THIS PARTICULAR BUNDLE OF NEWSPAPERS?
STEVE'S QUESTIONING OF THE PUZZLED DRIVER IS FRUITLESS!
WELL, THEY GOT IT AND I GUESS THEY WON'T BOTHER YOU ANYMORE!
I'M SURE OF IT! ONLY NEWSPAPERS IN DAT BUNDLE!

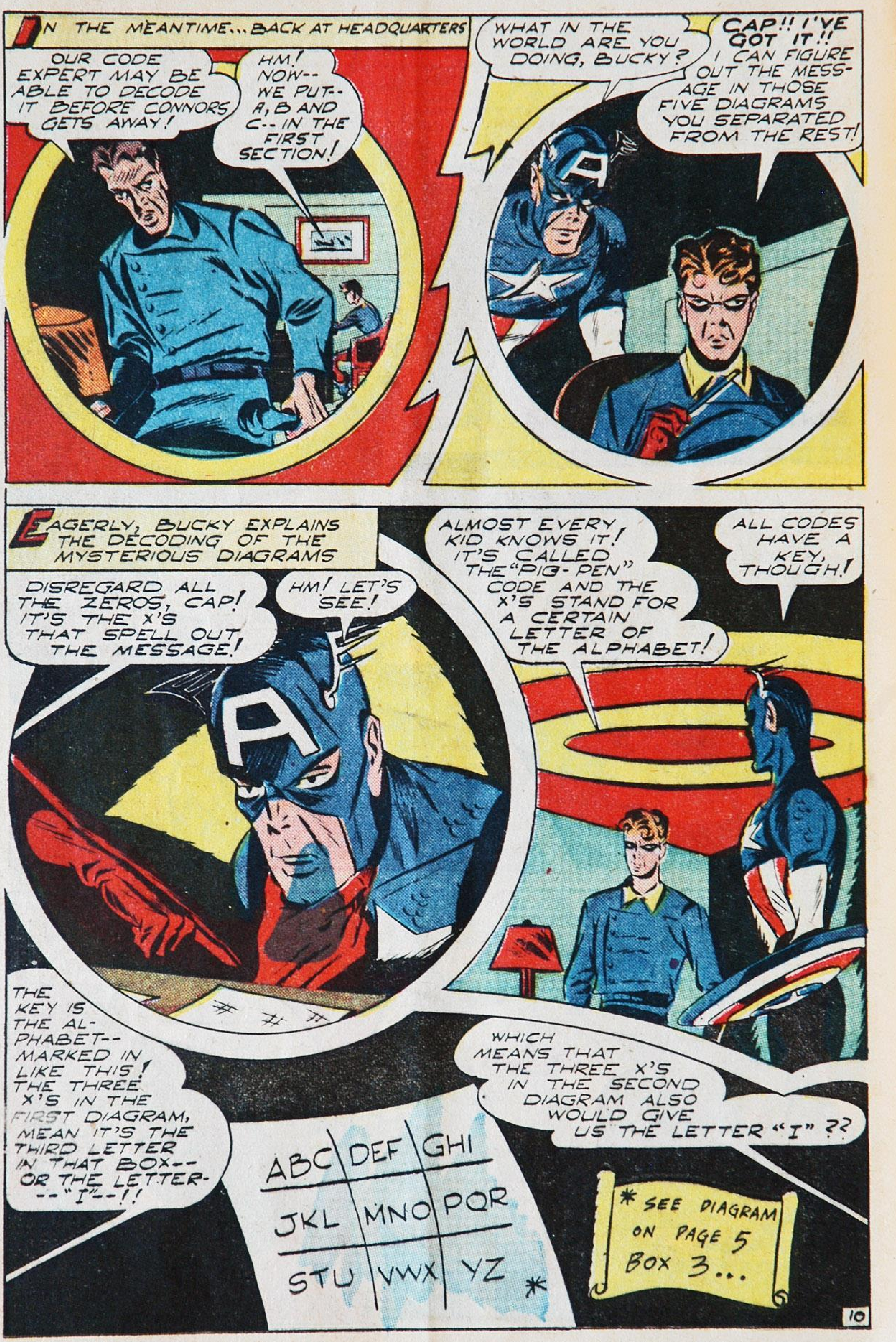
MOMENTS LATER... STEVE AND BUCKY RESUME THEIR DRIVE...
STILL STUDYING THAT PAPER, STEVE?
THESE DIAGRAMS FASCINATE ME! THE ARRANGEMENT IS MOST UNUSUAL! WAIT! PULL UP, I THINK I HAVE SOMETHING!
O.K! HOW DO THOSE FIVE DIAGRAMS DIFFER FROM THE OTHERS?
MORE THAN ONE CROSS HAS BEEN USED IN A PARTICULAR SECTION, WHILE THE OTHER DIAGRAMS ARE FILLED WITH SINGLE ZEROS!
GOSH! YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT THOSE FIVE ARE REGULAR TICK-TACK-TOE-GAMES!
EXACTLY! WHICH LEADS ME TO BELIEVE -- GOOD HEAVENS!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING STEVE?
STEVE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE, BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA IS GOING AFTER THAT JUNKMAN!
SECONDS LATER... TWO FAMOUS FIGURES STREAK AFTER THE JUNK CART...
WHY SHOULD THE JUNKMAN BE IN DANGER? THE MUGS GOT THE BUNDLE!
BECAUSE HE HAS INFORMATION, WHICH MAY UPSET THEIR PLANS! WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE LET HIM OUT OF OUR SIGHT!

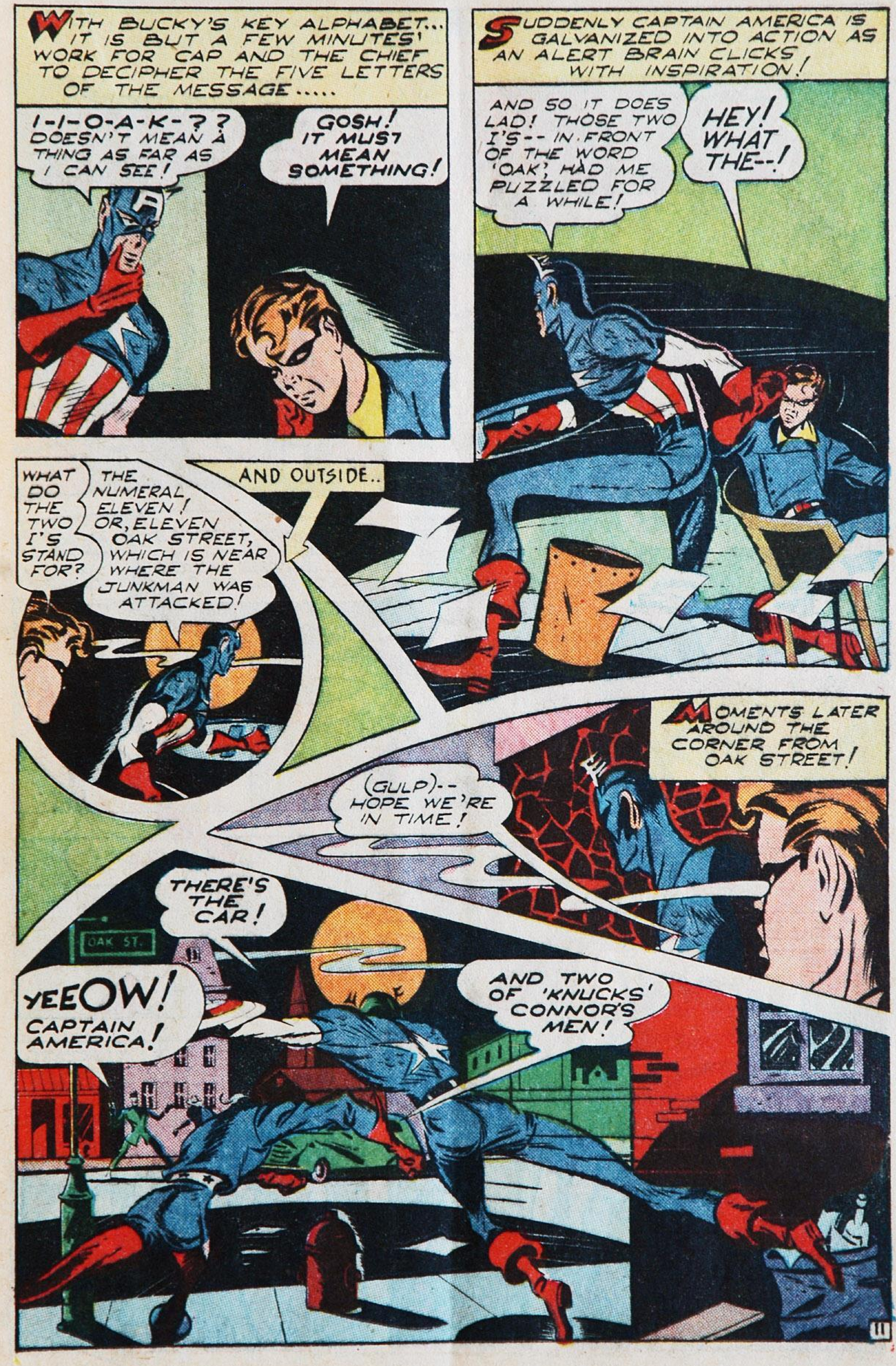
..WHIPPING AROUND THE CORNER... CAP'S WORSE FEARS ARE REALIZED AS HE SEES THE JUNKMAN BEING ATTACKED BY THE THUGS...
(GULP) LOOK BOSS!
OH!
I'LL FIX HIM SO'S HE WON'T TALK!
CAPTAIN AMERICA!
(GROAN) TOO LATE!
POW!
WITH A GRINDING CLASH OF GEARS. THE THUG'S CAR BEARS DOWN ON CAP AND BUCKY!
WAIT FOR US, BOSS!
RUN 'EM DOWN!
LOOK OUT BUCKY!
R-R-R-O-A-R-R
CAP AND BUCKY MOVE SWIFTLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO FRUSTRATE THE ATTEMPT OF THE TWO THUGS TO ESCAPE!
OOPS!
NO YOU DON'T, RAT!
YEOW!
OW!
GET A DOCTOR FOR THE JUNKMAN, KID! HE MAY STILL BE ALIVE!
WOK!


... A FEW MINUTES LATER...
IT'LL BE A MIRACLE IF HE LIVES AFTER THAT BRUTAL ASSAULT!
(GROAN) I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THEY'D TRY TO SHUT HIM UP!
IF THE JUNKMAN DIES, WE'LL NEVER KNOW THE ADDRESS, UNLESS THOSE TWO RATS CAN BE MADE TO SPEAK!
ADDRESS? WHAT ADDRESS?
THE HOUSE FROM WHICH THE JUNKMAN PICKED UP THE BUNDLE OF PAPERS... FROM WHICH YOU TORE THE SHEET WITH TICK TACK TOE DIAGRAMS!!
CAP EXPLAINS FURTHER AS THEY ACCOMPANY THEIR CAPTIVES TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS!
THOSE FIVE DIAGRAMS ARE SOME KIND OF CODE MESSAGE FROM SOMEONE IN THE HOUSE!
WHEE EEEEEE
POLICE
NO PARKING
..AND AT HEADQUARTERS...
GOSH CAP! YOU DON'T THINK IT'S THE MILLIONAIRE AND THAT NURSE!
WE'LL KNOW AFTER THE POLICE GRILL THOSE TWO KILLERS WE CAUGHT!
ONE HOUR LATER
NO USE! KNUCKS CONNOR'S HOODS AREN'T IN THE HABIT OF TALKING!
(SIGH) O.K! TAKE 'EM AWAY!
WANTED

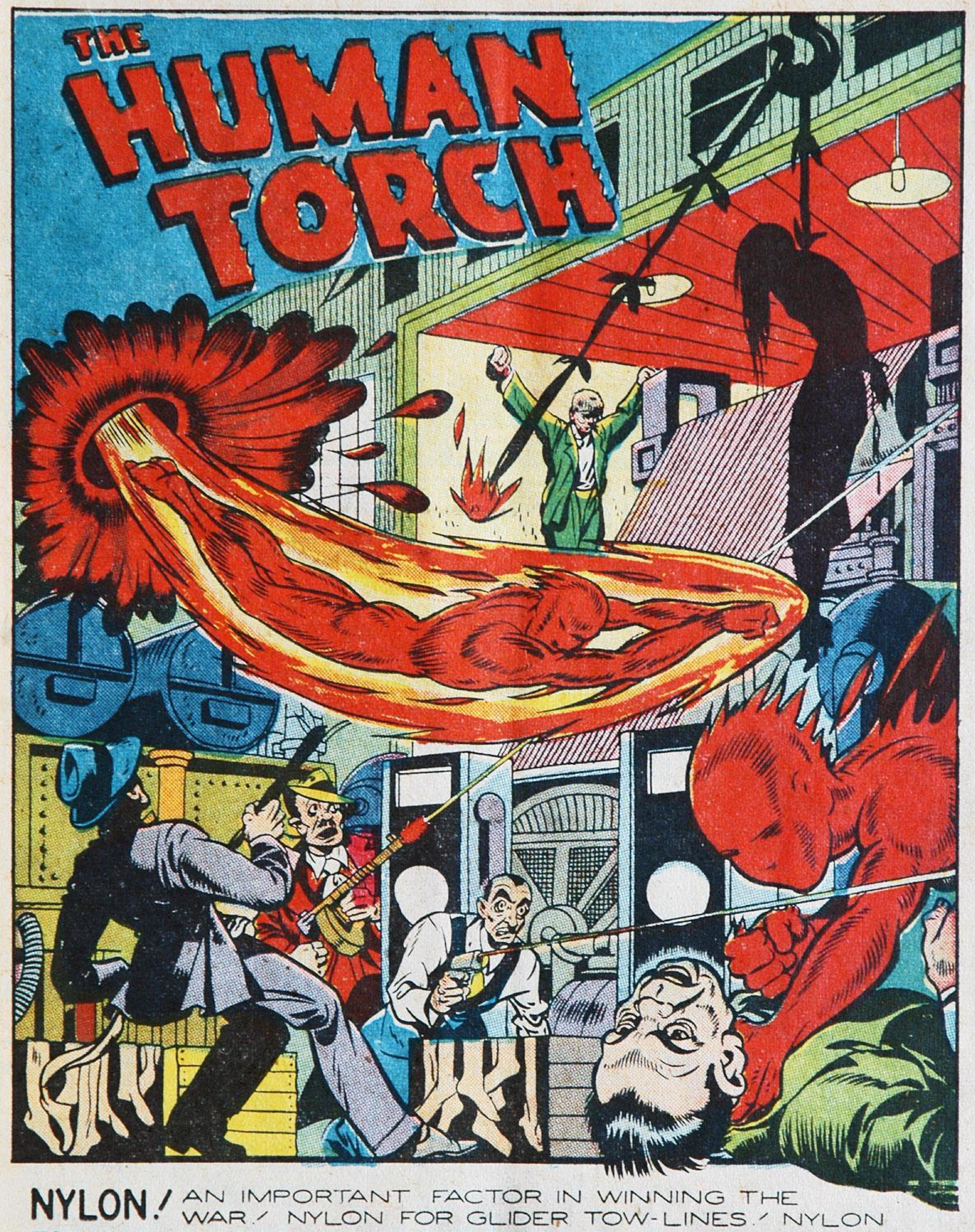
A FEW MINUTES LATER... IN THE CHIEF'S OFFICE....
I FELT SOMETHING WAS WRONG, IN SPITE OF THE FAMILY DENYING IT... AND NOW WITH KNUCKS CONNORS IN THE PICTURE... I KNOW IT WAS A SNATCH!
WERE THERE ANY RANSOM DEMANDS?
THERE MUST'VE BEEN-- BUT THE FAMILY WAS PROBABLY WARNED NOT TO TELL US ANYTHING! THE USUAL THREATS TO THE VICTIM, I SUPPOSE!
BY THE TIME THE JUNKMAN RECOVERS CONSCIOUSNESS AND TELLS US WHERE HE PICKED UP THAT BUNDLE, CONNORS WILL BE GONE!
(GROAN)-- AND KNOWING 'KNUCKS', HIS VICTIMS HAVEN'T A CHANCE, NOW THAT HE KNOWS WE ARE ON THE CASE!
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE, IF WE CAN DECODE THE MESSAGE IN THOSE FIVE DIAGRAMS! BUCKY HAS THE PAPER!
ALL THROUGH THE FOREGOING, BUCKY--- WITH PENCIL AND PAD COVERED WITH WEIRD NOTATIONS-- HAS BEEN WORKING FURIOUSLY OVER THE TORN NEWSPAPER WITH THE MYSTERIOUS FIVE DIAGRAMS!!
IF-- WE-- THROW-- OUT THE-- ZEROS? ---AND ONLY FIGURE THE CROSSES?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BUCKY?

MEANWHILE.. AT THE HIDEOUT OF 'KNUCKS' CONNORS!
YOU COWARDLY WRETCH! BATTERING A HELPLESS OLD WOMAN TO DEATH!
SHE HAD IT COMING! I TOLD YOU BOTH NOT TO TRY ANY FUNNY STUFF!
INNOCENTLY PLAYING TICK-TACK-TOE--WERE YOU? MAKING SURE TO MARK UP ALL THE NEWSPAPERS -HOPING YOUR MESSAGE WOULD BE NOTICED, EH?
WELL! YOUR SCHEME DIDN'T WORK! ALL IT DID WAS BRING CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE LAW AFTER US! AND INCIDENTALLY--SIGN YOUR DEATH WARRANT!
YOU'LL GET THE SAME DOSE AS YOUR NURSE... AS SOON AS YOUR FOOL FAMILY COMES ACROSS WITH THE DOUGH!
I GOT IT, BOSS! I GOT IT!
IT WAS A CINCH! IT WAS AT THE POST OFFICE, JUST AS YOU INSTRUCTED---ADDRESSED TO JOHN SMITH--c/o GENERAL DELIVERY!
A COOL QUARTER OF A MILLION! PERFECT!
LET'S SCRAM, BOSS! IT AIN'T SAFE WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA ON OUR TAIL!
GET THE CAR! I AIN'T LEAVING NO LIVE WITNESSES BEHIND!


IN THE MEANTIME... BACK AT HEADQUARTERS
OUR CODE EXPERT MAY BE ABLE TO DECODE IT BEFORE CONNORS GETS AWAY!
HM! NOW-- WE PUT-- A, B AND C-- IN THE FIRST SECTION!
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING, BUCKY?
CAP!! I'VE GOT IT!! I CAN FIGURE OUT THE MESSAGE IN THOSE FIVE DIAGRAMS YOU SEPARATED FROM THE REST!
EAGERLY, BUCKY EXPLAINS THE DECODING OF THE MYSTERIOUS DIAGRAMS
DISREGARD ALL THE ZEROS, CAP! IT'S THE X'S THAT SPELL OUT THE MESSAGE!
HM! LET'S SEE!
ALMOST EVERY KID KNOWS IT! IT'S CALLED THE "PIG-PEN" CODE AND THE X'S STAND FOR A CERTAIN LETTER OF THE ALPHABET!
ALL CODES HAVE A KEY, THOUGH!
THE KEY IS THE ALPHABET-- MARKED IN LIKE THIS! THE THREE X'S IN THE FIRST DIAGRAM, MEAN IT'S THE THIRD LETTER IN THAT BOX-- OR THE LETTER-- "I"--!!
WHICH MEANS THAT THE THREE X'S IN THE SECOND DIAGRAM ALSO WOULD GIVE US THE LETTER "I" ??
ABC DEF GHI
JKL MNO PQR
STU VWX YZ
*
* SEE DIAGRAM ON PAGE 5 BOX 3...


WITH BUCKY'S KEY ALPHABET... IT IS BUT A FEW MINUTES' WORK FOR CAP AND THE CHIEF TO DECIPHER THE FIVE LETTERS OF THE MESSAGE.....
I-I-O-A-K-?? DOESN'T MEAN A THING AS FAR AS I CAN SEE!
GOSH! IT MUST MEAN SOMETHING!
SUDDENLY CAPTAIN AMERICA IS GALVANIZED INTO ACTION AS AN ALERT BRAIN CLICKS WITH INSPIRATION!
AND SO IT DOES LAD! THOSE TWO I'S-- IN FRONT OF THE WORD 'OAK', HAD ME PUZZLED FOR A WHILE!
HEY! WHAT THE--!
WHAT DO THE TWO I'S STAND FOR?
THE NUMERAL ELEVEN! OR, ELEVEN OAK STREET, WHICH IS NEAR WHERE THE JUNKMAN WAS ATTACKED!
AND OUTSIDE..
MOMENTS LATER AROUND THE CORNER FROM OAK STREET!
(GULP)-- HOPE WE'RE IN TIME!
THERE'S THE CAR!
OAK ST.
YEEOW! CAPTAIN AMERICA!
AND TWO OF 'KNUCKS' CONNOR'S MEN!

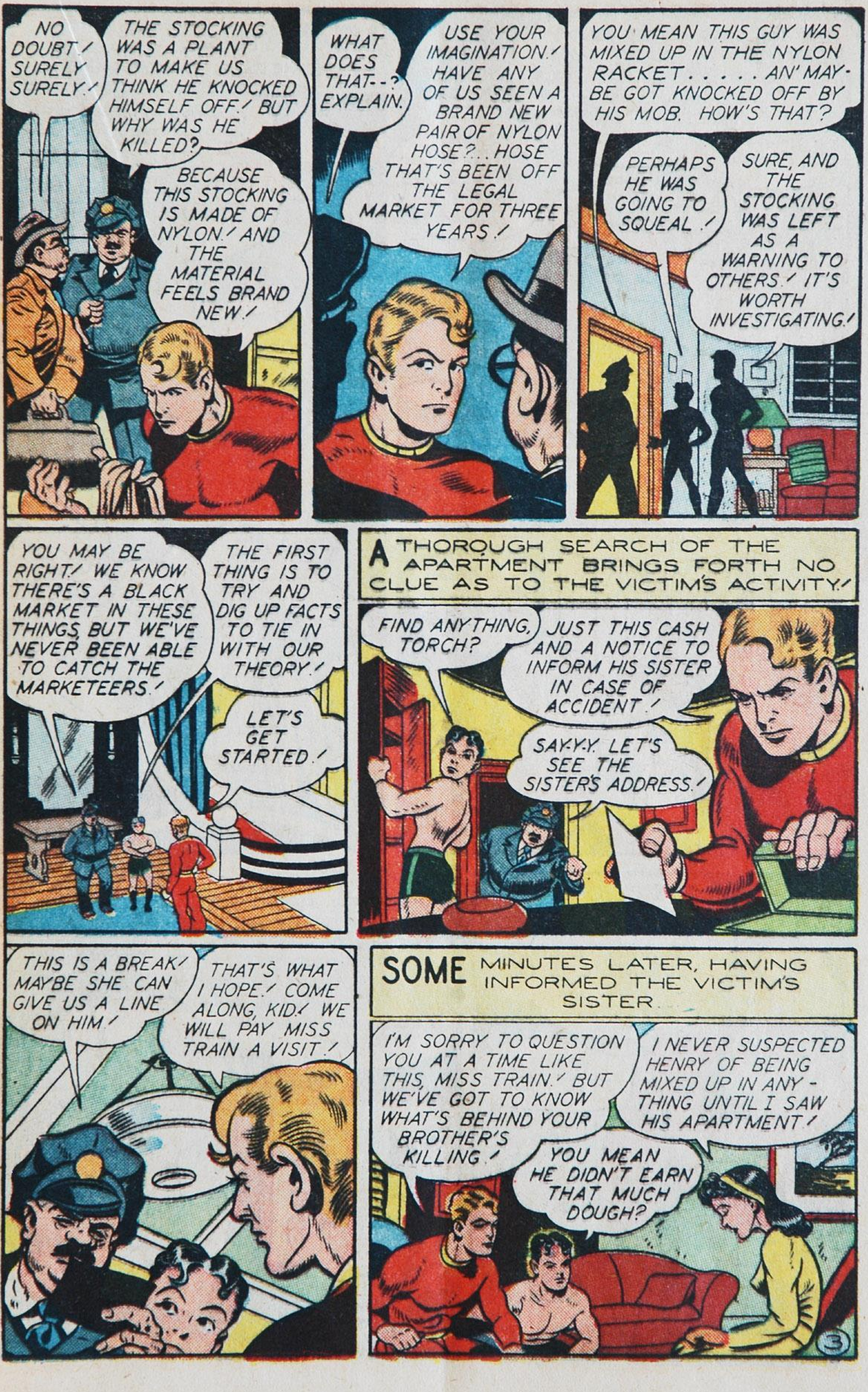
CAP AND BUCKY QUICKLY STOP THE THUGS' ATTEMPT TO FLEE BACK INTO THE HOUSE...
CONNORS MUST STILL BE IN THERE! I'M GOING IN AFTER HIM! YOU MOP UP HERE, BUCKY!
SAY YOUR PRAYERS, GRANDPA!! WHAT'S THAT? YOW! CAPTAIN AMERICA!
FIRST, WE DISPOSE OF YOUR GUN, MY BRASS KNUCKLED KILLER!
OW! MY HAND!
CAP... WRAITH-LIKE... SLIPS IN CLOSE UNDER THE WILD THRESHING OF BRASS-KNUCKLED FISTS!
...AND THEN...
RAT!
POW!
YEEOCH!
NO YOU DON'T!
LATER
GOSH! HOW'D YA COME TO USE THAT TICK-TACK TOE CODE, MR. BELLOWS?
I REMEMBERED IT FROM MY BOYHOOD! I HOPED SOMEONE WOULD RECOGNIZE IT!
The End.



**NYLON!** AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN WINNING THE WAR! NYLON FOR GLIDER TOW-LINES! NYLON FOR PARACHUTES! NYLON FOR COUNTLESS OTHER LIFE-SAVING DEVICES! NYLON DESPERATELY NEEDED BY OUR BRAVE TROOPS! THAT'S WHY THINKING PATRIOTIC AMERICANS STOOD STUNNED WITH HORROR AS THEY WATCHED PRECIOUS QUANTITIES OF ESSENTIAL MATERIAL BEING DIVERTED INTO BLACK MARKET HOSIERY! THEN THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO TOOK A HAND AND MATCHED THEIR WITS AGAINST THE DIABOLICAL AND RUTHLESS CUNNING OF THE ---

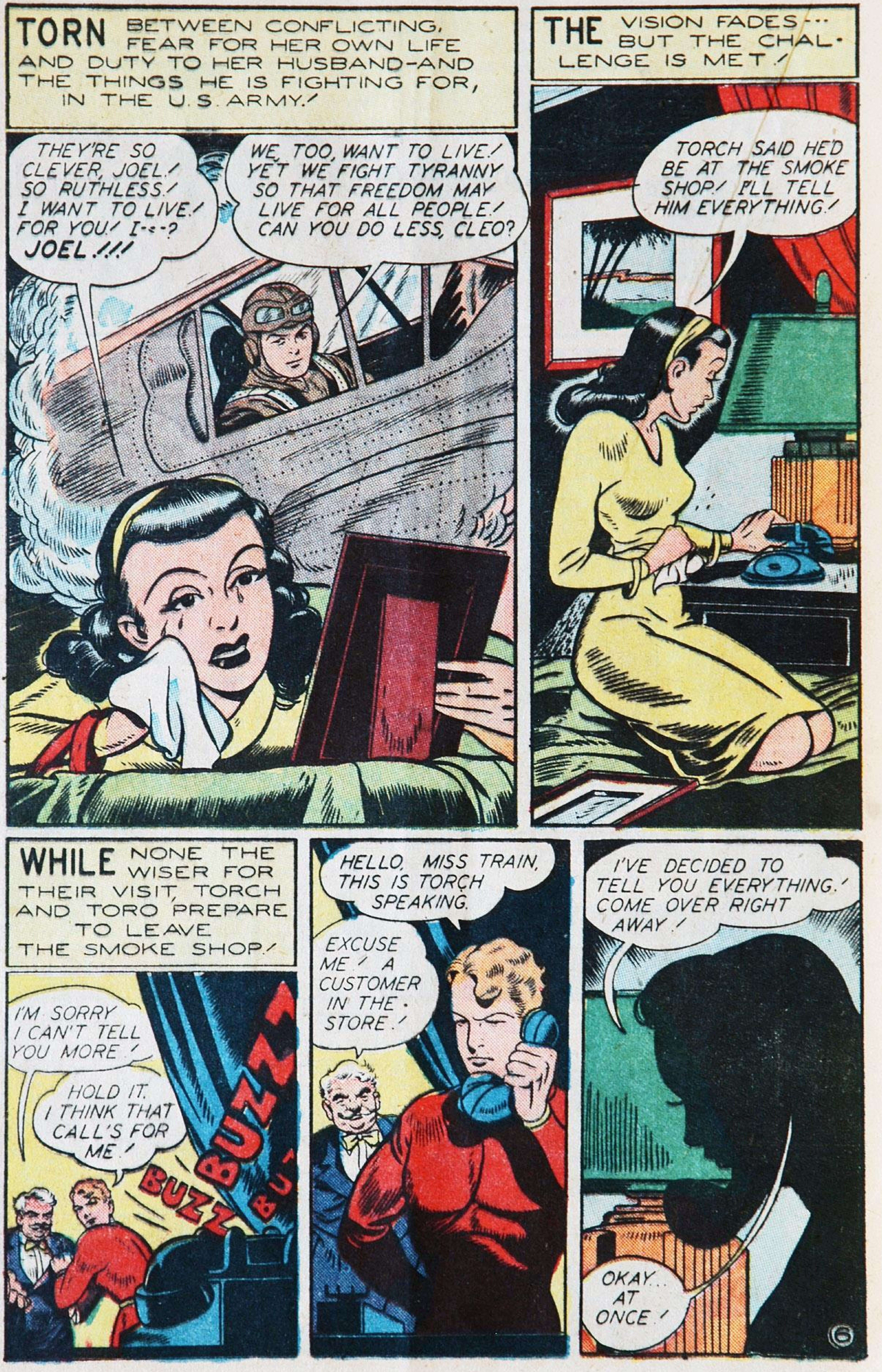
# "BLACK MARKETEERS of DEATH"

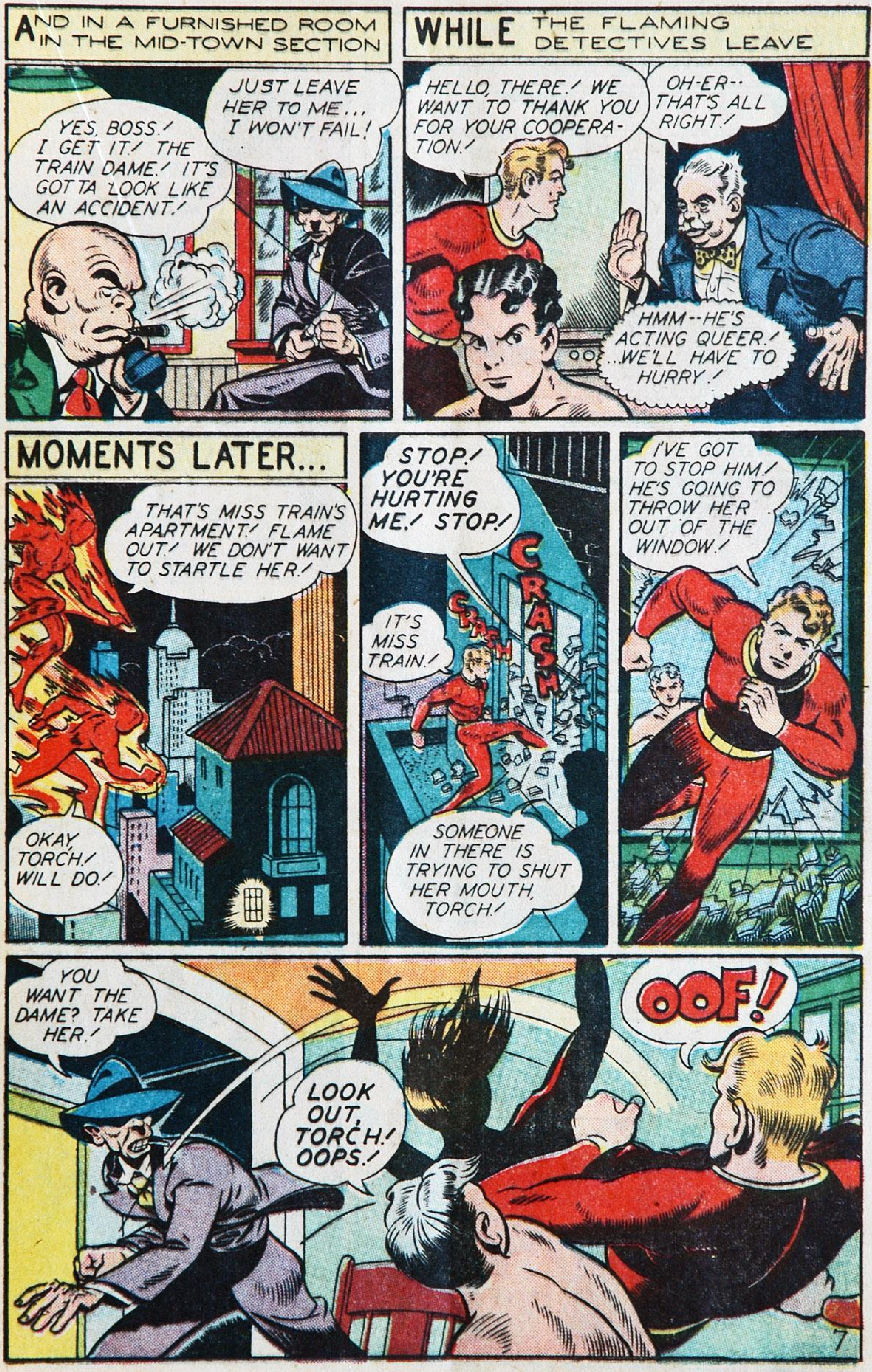
OUR STORY OPENS WITH TWO FAMILIAR FIGURES FLAMING IDLY OVER MANHATTAN'S SKYLINE!
THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME EXCITEMENT BELOW! WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M NO FORTUNE-TELLER! LET'S DROP DOWN AND SEE!
NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE!
WHAT'S THE STORY, CHIEF?
SOME GUY'S GONE AND HUNG HIMSELF WITH A WOMAN'S STOCKING!
THAT'S ODD!
YEAH! I'VE HEARD OF 'EM COMMITTING SUICIDE OVER WOMEN! BUT THIS IS THE ONLY TIME I'VE SEEN 'EM DO IT WITH A WOMAN'S APPAREL.
SOUNDS INTERESTING! LET'S TAKE A LOOK, TORO! CLEARLY A CASE OF SUICIDE!
IN THE FOURTH FLOOR APARTMENT OF THE VICTIM
MY MEN ARE CUTTING THE BODY DOWN. A CASE OF SUICIDE. THE CORONER WILL VERIFY IT.
SURELY! FALL BROKE HIS NECK. SEE IT FROM HERE!
THIS CASE IS A CLOSED AFFAIR.
THE WOMAN'S STOCKING ANGLE INTRIGUES ME, TORO. WE'LL WAIT FOR THE CORONER'S REPORT!
CHIEF!
C'MON, TORCH!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? FIND SOMETHING NEW?
SURELY! SURELY! THIN PIECE OF WIRE CAUSED DEATH! STOCKING WRAPPED OVER IT AFTER SUBJECT WAS DEAD! THIS MAN WAS **MURDERED!**


NO DOUBT! SURELY SURELY!
THE STOCKING WAS A PLANT TO MAKE US THINK HE KNOCKED HIMSELF OFF! BUT WHY WAS HE KILLED?
BECAUSE THIS STOCKING IS MADE OF NYLON! AND THE MATERIAL FEELS BRAND NEW!
WHAT DOES THAT--? EXPLAIN.
USE YOUR IMAGINATION! HAVE ANY OF US SEEN A BRAND NEW PAIR OF NYLON HOSE?... HOSE THAT'S BEEN OFF THE LEGAL MARKET FOR THREE YEARS!
YOU MEAN THIS GUY WAS MIXED UP IN THE NYLON RACKET . . . . AN' MAYBE GOT KNOCKED OFF BY HIS MOB. HOW'S THAT?
PERHAPS HE WAS GOING TO SQUEAL!
SURE, AND THE STOCKING WAS LEFT AS A WARNING TO OTHERS! IT'S WORTH INVESTIGATING!
YOU MAY BE RIGHT! WE KNOW THERE'S A BLACK MARKET IN THESE THINGS, BUT WE'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CATCH THE MARKETEERS!
THE FIRST THING IS TO TRY AND DIG UP FACTS TO TIE IN WITH OUR THEORY!
LET'S GET STARTED!
A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE APARTMENT BRINGS FORTH NO CLUE AS TO THE VICTIM'S ACTIVITY!
FIND ANYTHING, TORCH?
JUST THIS CASH AND A NOTICE TO INFORM HIS SISTER IN CASE OF ACCIDENT!
SAY-Y-Y. LET'S SEE THE SISTER'S ADDRESS!
THIS IS A BREAK! MAYBE SHE CAN GIVE US A LINE ON HIM!
THAT'S WHAT I HOPE! COME ALONG, KID! WE WILL PAY MISS TRAIN A VISIT!
SOME MINUTES LATER, HAVING INFORMED THE VICTIM'S SISTER.
I'M SORRY TO QUESTION YOU AT A TIME LIKE THIS, MISS TRAIN! BUT WE'VE GOT TO KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND YOUR BROTHER'S KILLING!
I NEVER SUSPECTED HENRY OF BEING MIXED UP IN ANYTHING UNTIL I SAW HIS APARTMENT!
YOU MEAN HE DIDN'T EARN THAT MUCH DOUGH?

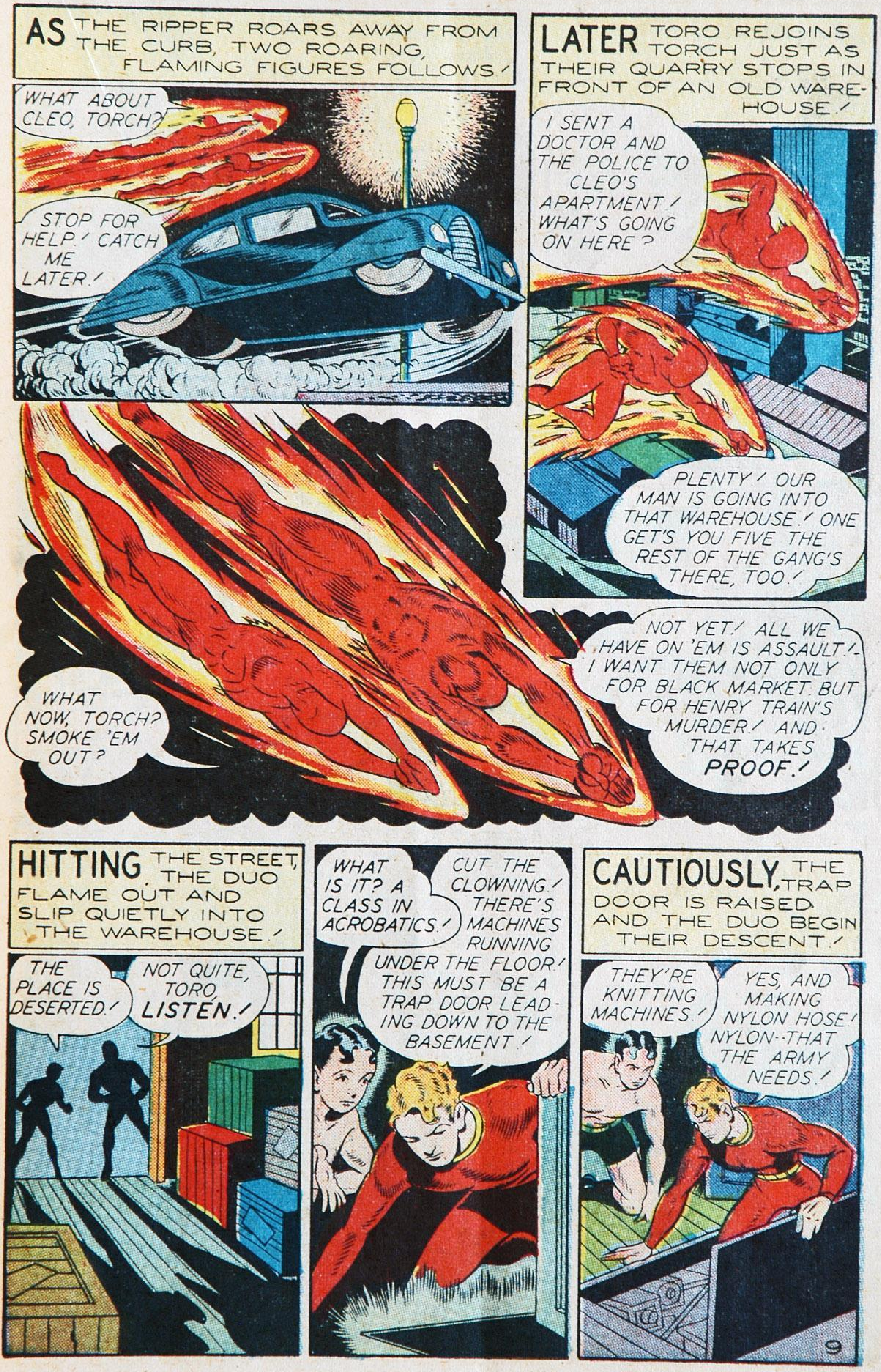
NO! HE WAS A LOW PAID CLERK FOR THE SMOKE SHOP! WHEN I SAW SUCH LARGE BILLS, I QUESTIONED HIM AS TO THEIR SOURCE! FINALLY HE BROKE DOWN AND TOLD ME--EXCUSE ME, PLEASE!
HE WAS MIXED UP IN SOMETHING CROOKED, THEN!
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
MEANWHILE, THE GIRL HAS RECEIVED A PACKAGE!
O-HHH! THEY KNOW HENRY TOLD ME --- "ENCLOSED IS THE MATE TO THE STOCKING FOUND AROUND YOUR BROTHER'S THROAT! DO NOT FORCE US TO MAKE YOU WEAR IT!" WHAT SHALL I DO? I WANT TO LIVE!
WELL, MISS! WHAT DID YOUR BROTHER TELL YOU?
I DON'T KNOW! I CAN'T TELL YOU! I F-FORGOT. PLEASE LEAVE!
HMM! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED. BETTER NOT PRESS HER!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT! WE'LL LEAVE!
THIS PICTURE OF YOUR HUSBAND! HE'S IN THE AIR CORPS! HIS LIFE AND THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS LIKE HIM DEPEND ON NYLON!
WHAT DO Y-YOU MEAN?
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH BECAUSE THE ARMY WAS FORCED TO ACCEPT PARACHUTES MADE OF INFERIOR MATERIALS-- ONLY ONE OF THE MANY THINGS MADE FROM NYLON!

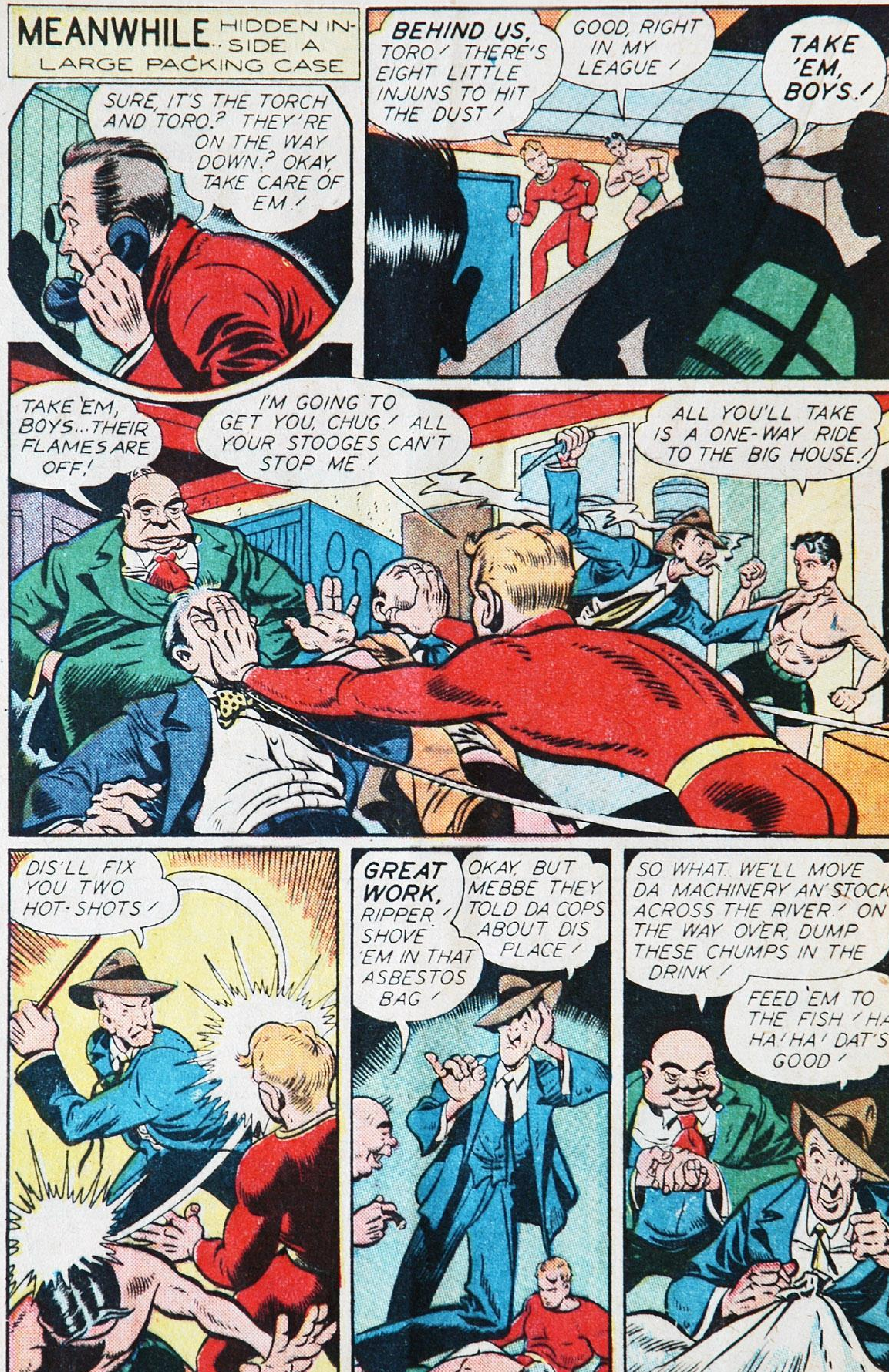
YET RIGHT IN THIS CITY, THERE ARE HUMAN SNAKES WHO DIVERT THIS MATERIAL INTO BLACK MARKET WOMEN'S STOCKINGS! DO YOU WANT TO PROTECT THEM? COME ON, TORO!
IN THE FOYER OF THE APARTMENT!
LOOK HERE, TORCH! A WARNING NOTE!
JUST AS I THOUGHT. THAT'S WHY SHE CLAMMED UP!
SECONDS LATER!
THINK SHE'LL COME ACROSS?
YES LAD! HER HUSBAND'S EYES WILL FOLLOW HER UNTIL SHE SPEAKS! SHE WILL SEE THEM EVERYWHERE--QUESTIONING--REPROACHFUL!
THE SMOKE SHOP!
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU GENTLEMEN?
I WANT INFORMATION CONCERNING A FORMER EMPLOYEE --HENRY TRAIN!
AH YES! POOR FELLOW! I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM, BUT STEP THIS WAY, PLEASE.
WE WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM... FRIENDS, HABITS,.. EVERYTHING!
AND WHILE THE DUO QUESTION THE VICTIM'S EMPLOYER, HIS SISTER IS LOSING A BATTLE WITH HER CONSCIENCE!
JOEL, DARLING--I CAN'T TALK! THEY'LL KILL ME IF I DO! PLEASE UNDERSTAND!

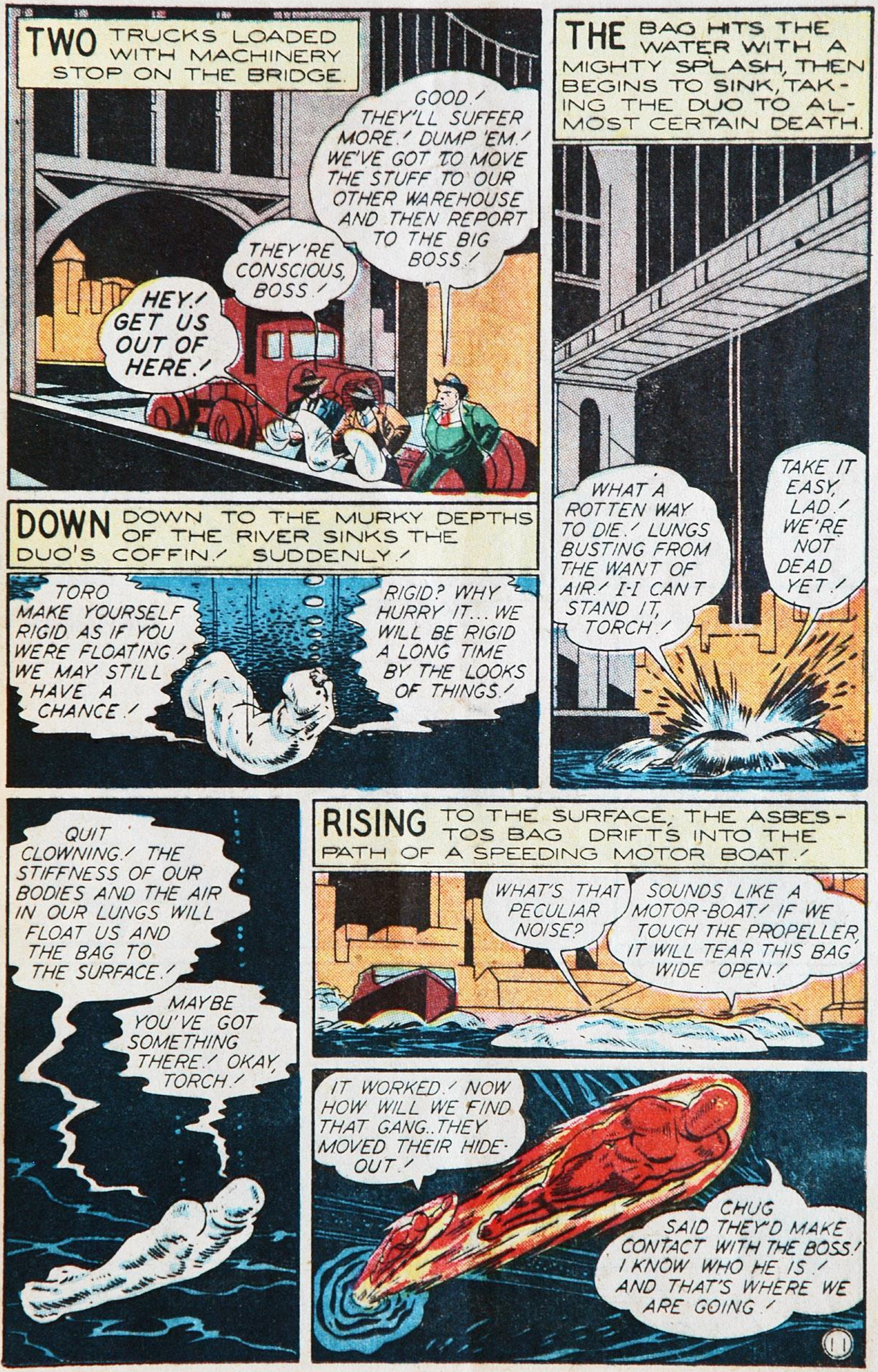

TORN BETWEEN CONFLICTING, FEAR FOR HER OWN LIFE AND DUTY TO HER HUSBAND-AND THE THINGS HE IS FIGHTING FOR, IN THE U.S. ARMY!
THEY'RE SO CLEVER, JOEL! SO RUTHLESS! I WANT TO LIVE! FOR YOU! I---? JOEL!!!
WE, TOO, WANT TO LIVE! YET WE FIGHT TYRANNY SO THAT FREEDOM MAY LIVE FOR ALL PEOPLE! CAN YOU DO LESS, CLEO?
THE VISION FADES--- BUT THE CHALLENGE IS MET!
TORCH SAID HE'D BE AT THE SMOKE SHOP! I'LL TELL HIM EVERYTHING!
WHILE NONE THE WISER FOR THEIR VISIT, TORCH AND TORO PREPARE TO LEAVE THE SMOKE SHOP!
I'M SORRY I CAN'T TELL YOU MORE!
HOLD IT. I THINK THAT CALL'S FOR ME!
BUZZZ
BUZZ
BU
HELLO, MISS TRAIN, THIS IS TORCH SPEAKING.
EXCUSE ME! A CUSTOMER IN THE STORE!
I'VE DECIDED TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING! COME OVER RIGHT AWAY!
OKAY... AT ONCE!

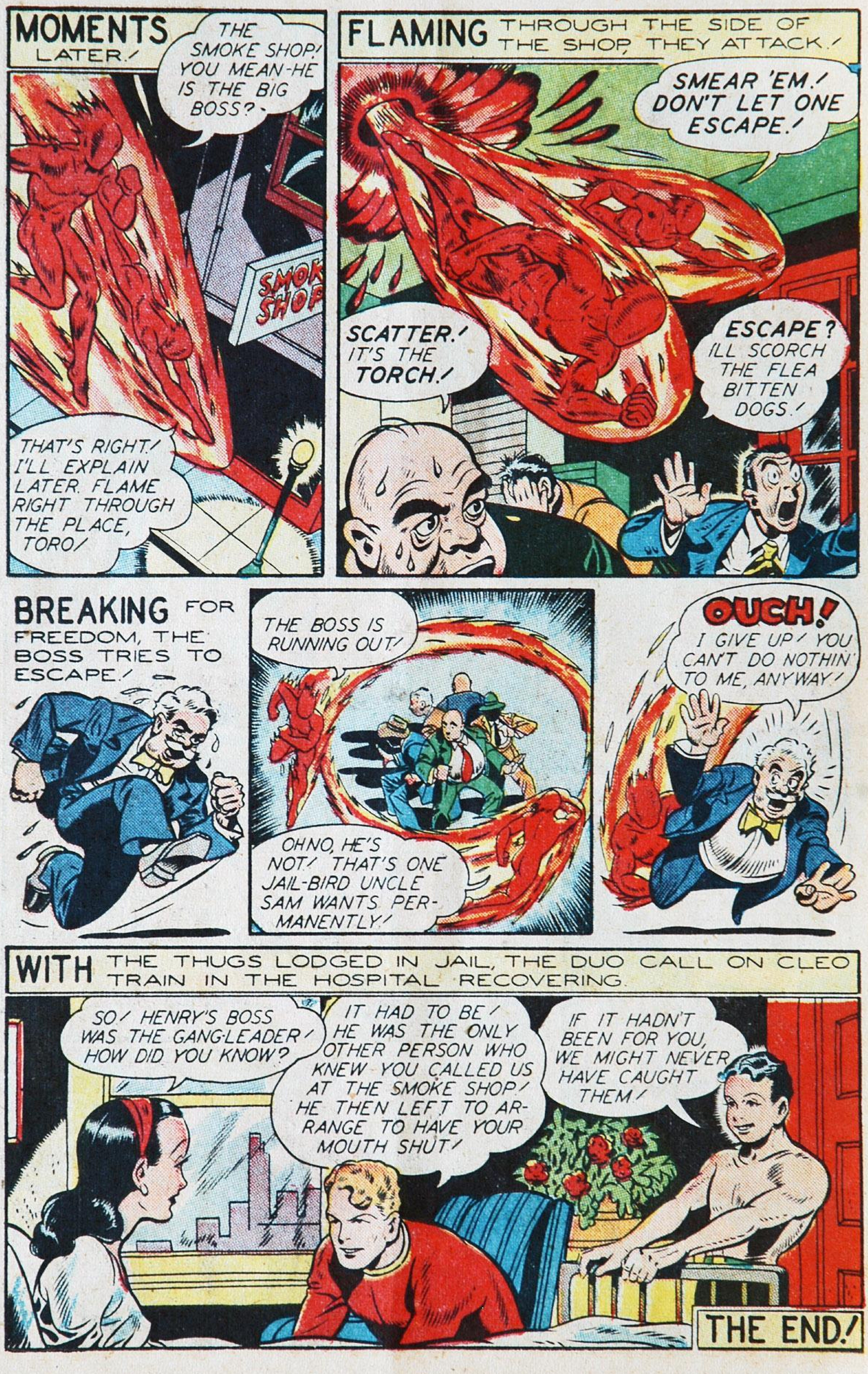

AND IN A FURNISHED ROOM IN THE MID-TOWN SECTION
YES, BOSS! I GET IT! THE TRAIN DAME! IT'S GOTTA LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT!
JUST LEAVE HER TO ME... I WON'T FAIL!
WHILE THE FLAMING DETECTIVES LEAVE
HELLO, THERE! WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!
OH-ER-- THAT'S ALL RIGHT!
HMM--HE'S ACTING QUEER! ..WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY!
MOMENTS LATER...
THAT'S MISS TRAIN'S APARTMENT! FLAME OUT! WE DON'T WANT TO STARTLE HER!
OKAY, TORCH! WILL DO!
STOP! YOU'RE HURTING ME! STOP!
CRASH
CRASH
IT'S MISS TRAIN!
SOMEONE IN THERE IS TRYING TO SHUT HER MOUTH, TORCH!
I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM! HE'S GOING TO THROW HER OUT OF THE WINDOW!
YOU WANT THE DAME? TAKE HER!
OOF!
LOOK OUT, TORCH! OOPS!

UNSCRAMBLING THEMSELVES, THE DUO CHASE THE THUG TO THE ROOF WHERE---
THAT PUTS YOU AMONG THE LILIES!
YOU MURDEROUS DOG!
BEFORE THE GUNMAN CAN STRIKE AGAIN, TORO FLAMES!
IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO TOAST YOUR LIVER, SURRENDER!
NOT TO YOU, YOU PINT-SIZED HUNK OF SULPHUR!
COMING TO A STOP, THE THUG MAKES HIS STAND!
EVEN A PINT-SIZED FLAME CAN GO A LONG WAY!
STOP IT! I'LL SURRENDER!
SCREAMING THE SCORCHED GUNMAN STUMBLES BACK OVER THE EDGE OF THE TERRACE!
HELP ME! I'M FALLING!
TOO LATE.. AND I'M NOT TOO SORRY!
RECOVERING FROM THE THUG'S BLOW, TORCH JOINS TORO AT THE ROOF'S EDGE!
THAT'S THE END OF ---BUT LOOK! THAT FELLOW CLIMBING BACK INTO THE AUTOMOBILE.. HE MUST BE OUR FIEND'S PAL! WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GIVE HIM THE SAME!
DON'T BE SO HASTY! HE'S NO GOOD TO US DEAD! WE'LL FOLLOW! HE'LL LEAD US TO THEIR HIDEOUT!


AS THE RIPPER ROARS AWAY FROM THE CURB, TWO ROARING, FLAMING FIGURES FOLLOWS!
WHAT ABOUT CLEO, TORCH?
STOP FOR HELP! CATCH ME LATER!
LATER TORO REJOINS TORCH JUST AS THEIR QUARRY STOPS IN FRONT OF AN OLD WAREHOUSE!
I SENT A DOCTOR AND THE POLICE TO CLEO'S APARTMENT! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
PLENTY! OUR MAN IS GOING INTO THAT WAREHOUSE! ONE GET'S YOU FIVE THE REST OF THE GANG'S THERE, TOO!
WHAT NOW, TORCH? SMOKE 'EM OUT?
NOT YET! ALL WE HAVE ON 'EM IS ASSAULT! - I WANT THEM NOT ONLY FOR BLACK MARKET BUT FOR HENRY TRAIN'S MURDER! AND THAT TAKES **PROOF!**
HITTING THE STREET, THE DUO FLAME OUT AND SLIP QUIETLY INTO THE WAREHOUSE!
THE PLACE IS DESERTED!
NOT QUITE, TORO, **LISTEN!**
WHAT IS IT? A CLASS IN ACROBATICS!
CUT THE CLOWNING! THERE'S MACHINES RUNNING UNDER THE FLOOR! THIS MUST BE A TRAP DOOR LEADING DOWN TO THE BASEMENT!
CAUTIOUSLY, THE TRAP DOOR IS RAISED AND THE DUO BEGIN THEIR DESCENT!
THEY'RE KNITTING MACHINES!
YES, AND MAKING NYLON HOSE! NYLON--THAT THE ARMY NEEDS!


MEANWHILE.. HIDDEN INSIDE A LARGE PACKING CASE
SURE, IT'S THE TORCH AND TORO? THEY'RE ON THE WAY DOWN? OKAY, TAKE CARE OF EM!
BEHIND US, TORO! THERE'S EIGHT LITTLE INJUNS TO HIT THE DUST!
GOOD, RIGHT IN MY LEAGUE!
TAKE 'EM, BOYS.!
TAKE 'EM, BOYS... THEIR FLAMES ARE OFF!
I'M GOING TO GET YOU, CHUG! ALL YOUR STOOGES CAN'T STOP ME!
ALL YOU'LL TAKE IS A ONE-WAY RIDE TO THE BIG HOUSE.!
DIS'LL FIX YOU TWO HOT-SHOTS!
GREAT WORK, RIPPER! SHOVE 'EM IN THAT ASBESTOS BAG!
OKAY, BUT MEBBE THEY TOLD DA COPS ABOUT DIS PLACE!
SO WHAT. WE'LL MOVE DA MACHINERY AN' STOCK ACROSS THE RIVER! ON THE WAY OVER, DUMP THESE CHUMPS IN THE DRINK!
FEED 'EM TO THE FISH! HA, HA! HA! DAT'S GOOD!

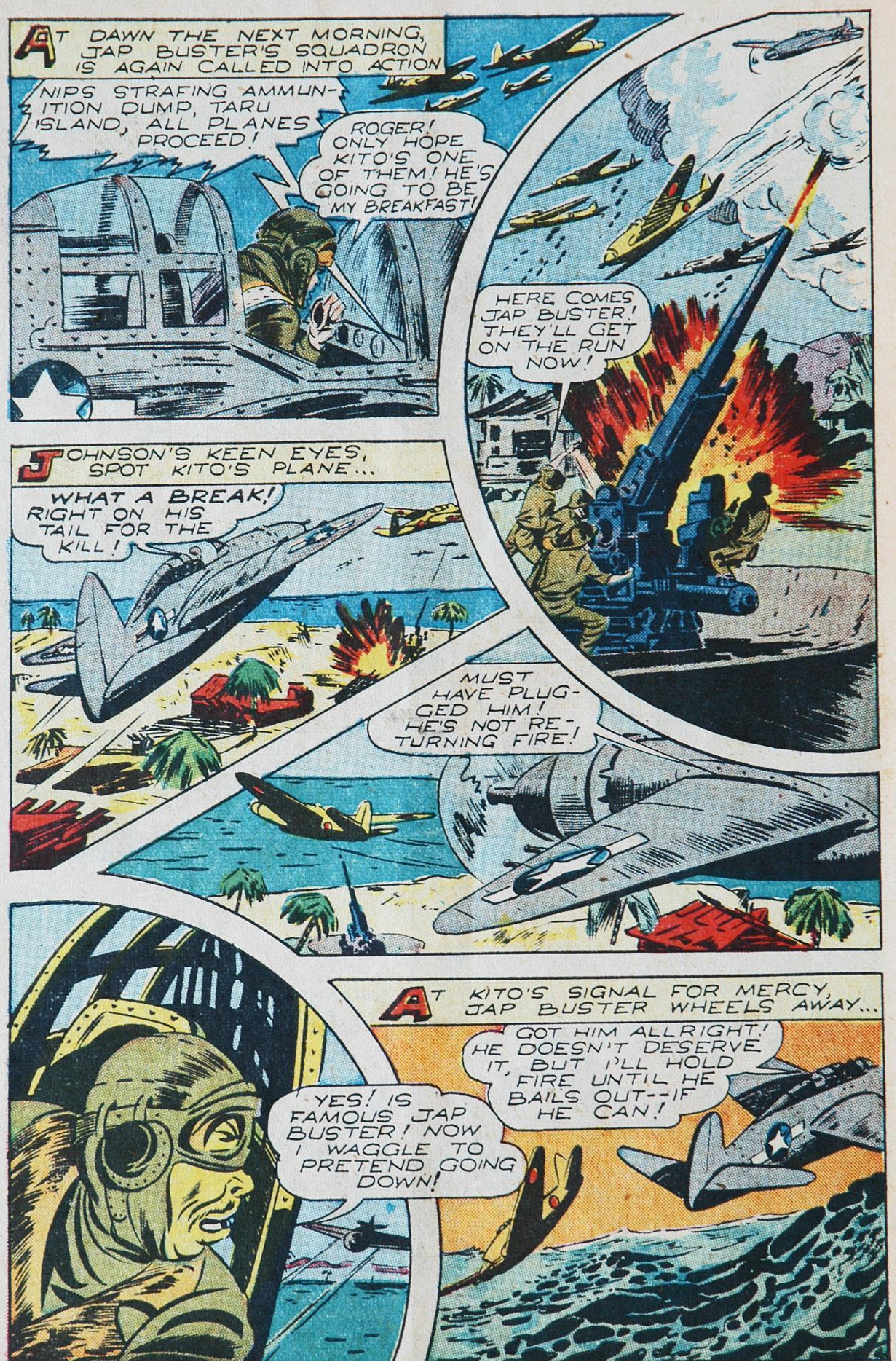

TWO TRUCKS LOADED WITH MACHINERY STOP ON THE BRIDGE.
GOOD! THEY'LL SUFFER MORE! DUMP 'EM! WE'VE GOT TO MOVE THE STUFF TO OUR OTHER WAREHOUSE AND THEN REPORT TO THE BIG BOSS!
THEY'RE CONSCIOUS, BOSS!
HEY! GET US OUT OF HERE!
THE BAG HITS THE WATER WITH A MIGHTY SPLASH, THEN BEGINS TO SINK, TAKING THE DUO TO ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH.
WHAT A ROTTEN WAY TO DIE! LUNGS BUSTING FROM THE WANT OF AIR! I-I CAN'T STAND IT, TORCH!
TAKE IT EASY, LAD! WE'RE NOT DEAD YET!
DOWN DOWN TO THE MURKY DEPTHS OF THE RIVER SINKS THE DUO'S COFFIN! SUDDENLY!
TORO MAKE YOURSELF RIGID AS IF YOU WERE FLOATING! WE MAY STILL HAVE A CHANCE!
RIGID? WHY HURRY IT... WE WILL BE RIGID A LONG TIME BY THE LOOKS OF THINGS!
QUIT CLOWNING! THE STIFFNESS OF OUR BODIES AND THE AIR IN OUR LUNGS WILL FLOAT US AND THE BAG TO THE SURFACE!
MAYBE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THERE! OKAY, TORCH!
RISING TO THE SURFACE, THE ASBESTOS BAG DRIFTS INTO THE PATH OF A SPEEDING MOTOR BOAT!
WHAT'S THAT PECULIAR NOISE?
SOUNDS LIKE A MOTOR-BOAT! IF WE TOUCH THE PROPELLER, IT WILL TEAR THIS BAG WIDE OPEN!
IT WORKED! NOW HOW WILL WE FIND THAT GANG..THEY MOVED THEIR HIDE-OUT!
CHUG SAID THEY'D MAKE CONTACT WITH THE BOSS! I KNOW WHO HE IS! AND THAT'S WHERE WE ARE GOING!

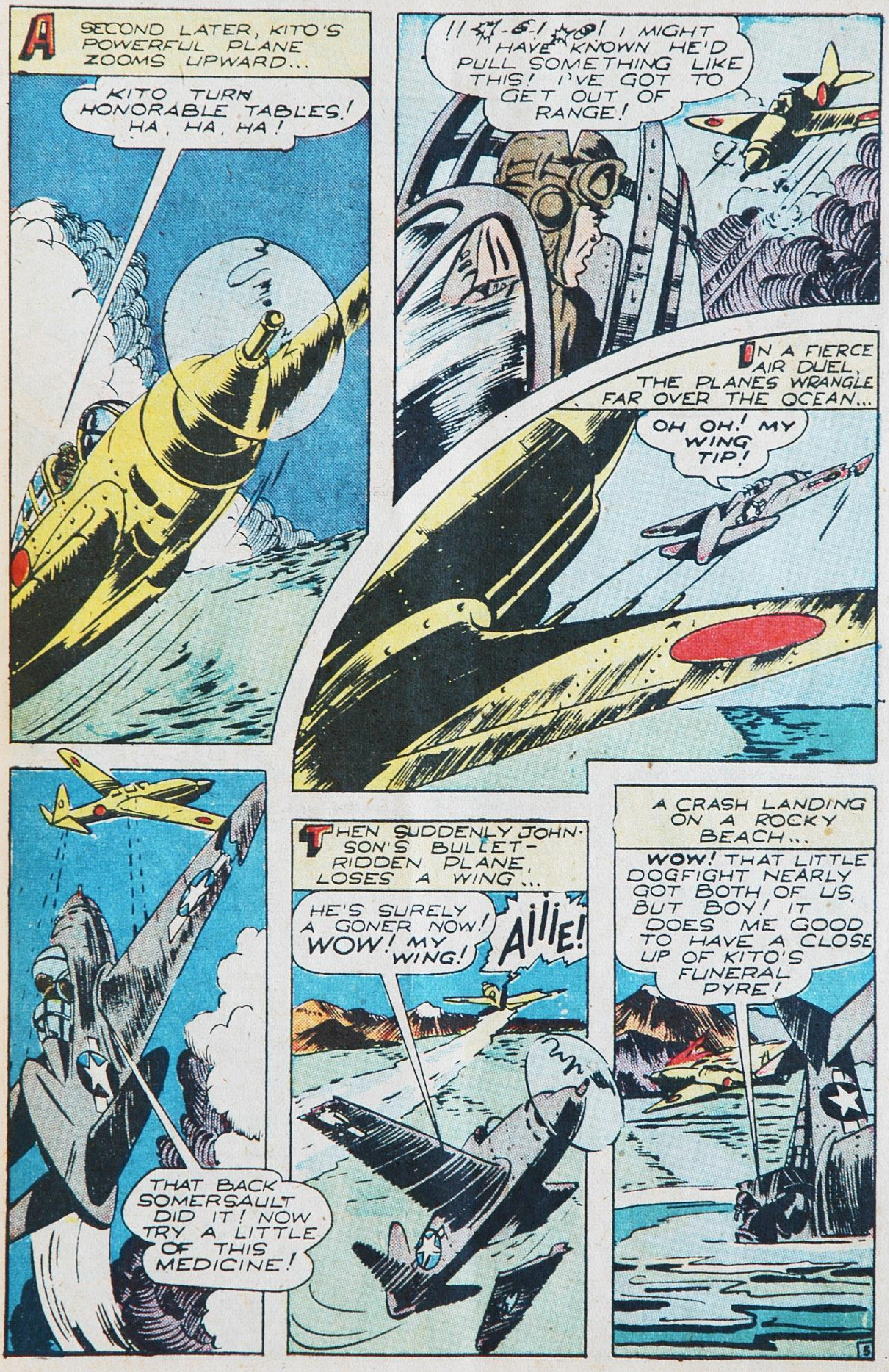

MOMENTS LATER!
THE SMOKE SHOP! YOU MEAN-HE IS THE BIG BOSS?
SMOKE SHOP
THAT'S RIGHT! I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. FLAME RIGHT THROUGH THE PLACE, TORO!
FLAMING THROUGH THE SIDE OF THE SHOP, THEY ATTACK!
SMEAR 'EM! DON'T LET ONE ESCAPE!
SCATTER! IT'S THE TORCH!
ESCAPE? ILL SCORCH THE FLEA BITTEN DOGS!
BREAKING FOR FREEDOM, THE BOSS TRIES TO ESCAPE!
THE BOSS IS RUNNING OUT!
OH NO, HE'S NOT! THAT'S ONE JAIL-BIRD UNCLE SAM WANTS PERMANENTLY!
OUCH! I GIVE UP! YOU CAN'T DO NOTHIN' TO ME, ANYWAY!
WITH THE THUGS LODGED IN JAIL, THE DUO CALL ON CLEO TRAIN IN THE HOSPITAL RECOVERING.
SO! HENRY'S BOSS WAS THE GANG-LEADER! HOW DID YOU KNOW?
IT HAD TO BE! HE WAS THE ONLY OTHER PERSON WHO KNEW YOU CALLED US AT THE SMOKE SHOP! HE THEN LEFT TO ARRANGE TO HAVE YOUR MOUTH SHUT!
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU, WE MIGHT NEVER HAVE CAUGHT THEM!
THE END!

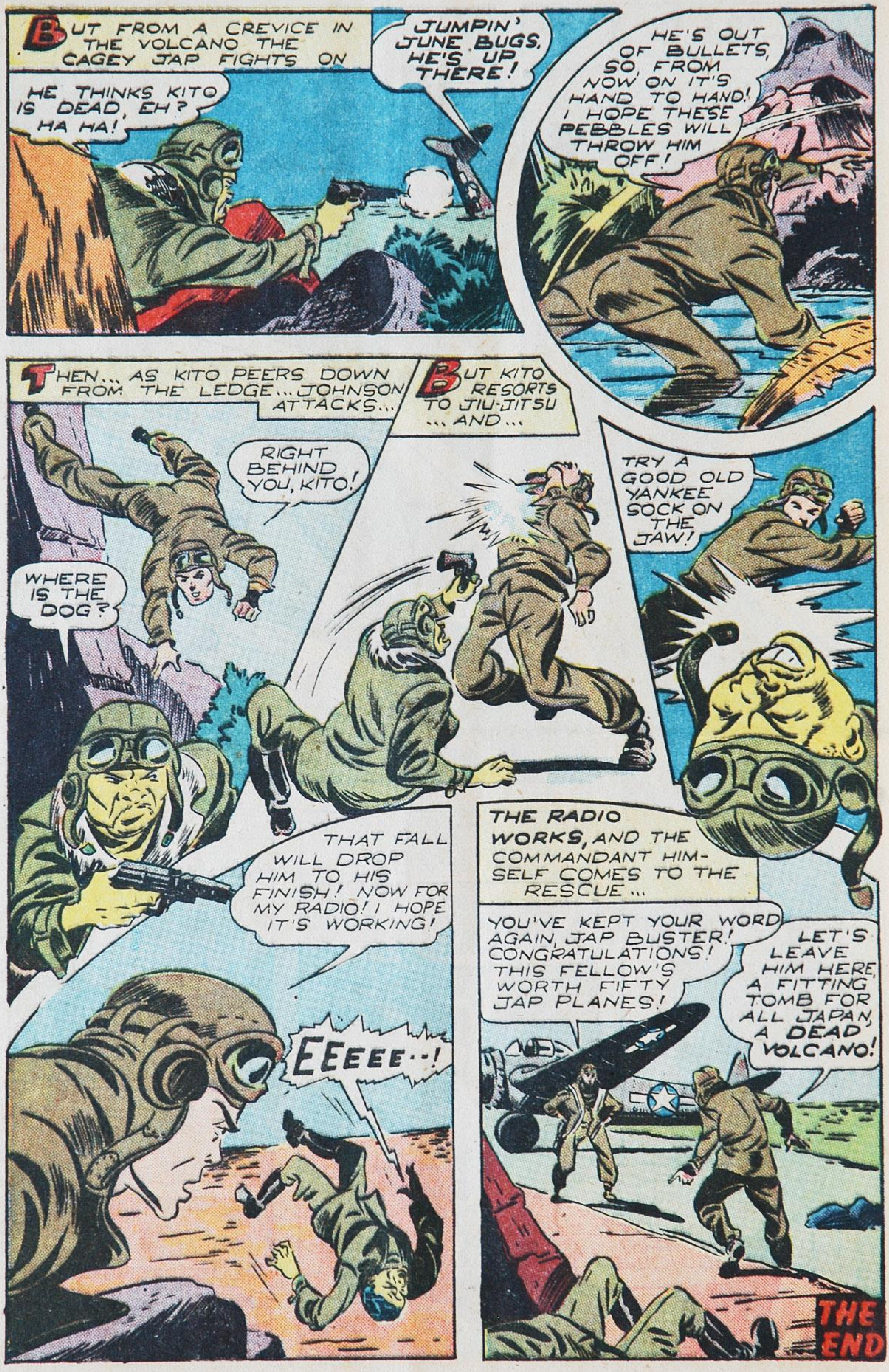
JAP BUSTER JOHNSON
VS
KITO, JAPANESE FIGHTER PILOT
KILL WITHOUT MERCY, KILL!
A FIERCE BATTLE RAGES IN THE SKIES--- TWO PLANES LOCK IN DEADLY COMBAT. TWO PILOTS --- AND ONE MUST DIE! FOR WHEN JAP BUSTER JOHNSON TANGLES WITH JAPAN'S DEADLIEST ACE, THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE PREVAILS --- KILL OR BE KILLED!

4.00 A.M. ONE MORNING AT JAP BUSTER JOHNSON'S PACIFIC ISLAND BASE
ALL OUT! JAP PLANES HEADING THIS WAY!
GOSH! A SURPRISE RAID!
WITHIN SECONDS, FIFTY U.S. FIGHTERS TAKE TO THE AIR..
THERE THEY ARE, COMING FROM THE NORTH!
WELL, I'LL BE-- THAT'S KITO! NO OTHER NIP WOULD GUN A BAILING PILOT IN SIGHT OF HIS OWN BUDDIES!
THE DIRTY MONKEY! I'LL GET HIM THIS TIME!
BUT KITO ZOOMS UP, DELIBERATELY STALLS---THEN---
BLAZES! HE'S SLIPPING DOWN TO GET ON MY TAIL!
RAT TAT TAT
GOOD GRIEF! HE PLUGGED TERRY!

LATER, BACK AT THE BASE...
WE LOST FIVE PLANES THIS MORNING, JOHNSON, TWO OF THEM FROM YOUR OWN SQUADRON! EVIDENTLY, KITO IS BACK!
I REALIZE THAT, SIR, HIS DIRTY FIGHTING TACTICS IDENTIFY HIM, EVEN THOUGH HE'S IN A NEW PLANE! DARN GOOD PLANE FOR THE JAPS TO BUILD TOO!
HE'S THEIR BEST PILOT SO NATURALLY, HE'S GOT THEIR FASTEST PLANE! I'M ASKING YOU TO GET HIM, DEAD OR ALIVE!
IT'LL BE DEAD SIR, AND THE JOB WILL BE A PRIVILEGE!
WOW! JAP BUSTER'S ALL BURNED UP ABOUT THE RAID THIS MORNING! FIVE PLANES IS A BAD LOSS!
IT'S KITO THAT'S BURNING HIM UP!
YOU KNOW, JAP BUSTER, THREE TIMES WE THOUGHT WE'D PLUGGED THAT JAP RAT, AND HE KEEPS TURNING UP! HE MUST HAVE NINE LIVES!
HE'S GOT JUST ONE AND I SWEAR I'LL GET IT SOON!
JOHNSON HASN'T LONG TO WAIT, FOR, AT THAT MOMENT, IN JAPANESE HEADQUARTERS...
MOST EXCELLENT WORK, KITO! NEXT JOB, IS TO BLAST YANKEE DOGS MUNITIONS DUMP ON TARU ISLAND! YOU WILL LEAVE AT DAWN!
WILL BE PLEASURE TO HUMBLE SERVANT OF EMPEROR, KITO IS HONORED!
WAIT! IN YANKEE AIR FORCE IS INSOLENT YANKEE PILOT, CALLED "JAP BUSTER JOHNSON", INSOLENT NICKNAME IS OFFENSIVE TO HONORABLE EMPEROR! YOUR SPECIAL ORDERS ARE KILL HIM!!!
ANOTHER HONOR IS HEAPED ON HUMBLE HEAD! IT WILL BE DONE!


AT DAWN THE NEXT MORNING, JAP BUSTER'S SQUADRON IS AGAIN CALLED INTO ACTION
NIPS STRAFING AMMUNITION DUMP, TARU ISLAND, ALL PLANES PROCEED!
ROGER! ONLY HOPE KITO'S ONE OF THEM! HE'S GOING TO BE MY BREAKFAST!
HERE COMES JAP BUSTER! THEY'LL GET ON THE RUN NOW!
JOHNSON'S KEEN EYES, SPOT KITO'S PLANE...
WHAT A BREAK! RIGHT ON HIS TAIL FOR THE KILL!
MUST HAVE PLUGGED HIM! HE'S NOT RETURNING FIRE!
YES! IS FAMOUS JAP BUSTER! NOW I WAGGLE TO PRETEND GOING DOWN!
AT KITO'S SIGNAL FOR MERCY, JAP BUSTER WHEELS AWAY...
GOT HIM ALLRIGHT! HE DOESN'T DESERVE IT, BUT I'LL HOLD FIRE UNTIL HE BAILS OUT--IF HE CAN!


A SECOND LATER, KITO'S POWERFUL PLANE ZOOMS UPWARD...
KITO TURN HONORABLE TABLES! HA, HA, HA!
!!✶-$-!✶@! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN HE'D PULL SOMETHING LIKE THIS! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF RANGE!
IN A FIERCE AIR DUEL, THE PLANES WRANGLE FAR OVER THE OCEAN...
OH OH! MY WING TIP!
THAT BACK SOMERSAULT DID IT! NOW TRY A LITTLE OF THIS MEDICINE!
THEN SUDDENLY JOHNSON'S BULLET-RIDDEN PLANE, LOSES A WING...
HE'S SURELY A GONER NOW! WOW! MY WING!
AIIIE!
A CRASH LANDING ON A ROCKY BEACH...
WOW! THAT LITTLE DOGFIGHT NEARLY GOT BOTH OF US, BUT BOY! IT DOES ME GOOD TO HAVE A CLOSE UP OF KITO'S FUNERAL PYRE!
5


BUT FROM A CREVICE IN THE VOLCANO THE CAGEY JAP FIGHTS ON
HE THINKS KITO IS DEAD, EH? HA HA!
JUMPIN' JUNE BUGS, HE'S UP THERE!
HE'S OUT OF BULLETS, SO, FROM NOW ON IT'S HAND TO HAND! I HOPE THESE PEBBLES WILL THROW HIM OFF!
THEN... AS KITO PEERS DOWN FROM THE LEDGE... JOHNSON ATTACKS...
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, KITO!
WHERE IS THE DOG?
BUT KITO RESORTS TO JIU-JITSU ...AND...
TRY A GOOD OLD YANKEE SOCK ON THE JAW!
THAT FALL WILL DROP HIM TO HIS FINISH! NOW FOR MY RADIO! I HOPE IT'S WORKING!
EEEEE--!
THE RADIO WORKS, AND THE COMMANDANT HIMSELF COMES TO THE RESCUE...
YOU'VE KEPT YOUR WORD AGAIN, JAP BUSTER! CONGRATULATIONS! THIS FELLOW'S WORTH FIFTY JAP PLANES!
LET'S LEAVE HIM HERE, A FITTING TOMB FOR ALL JAPAN, A DEAD VOLCANO!
THE END

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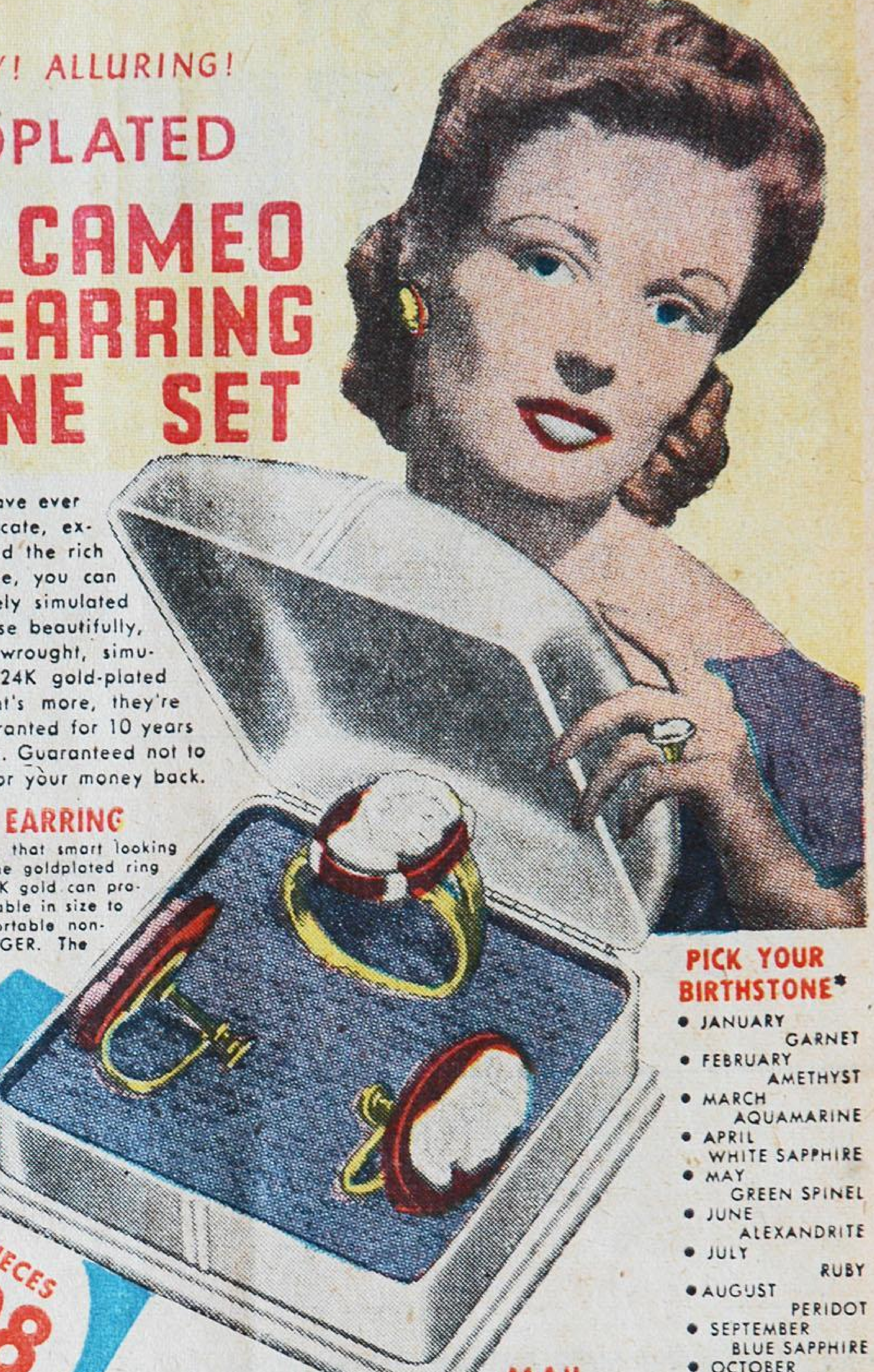

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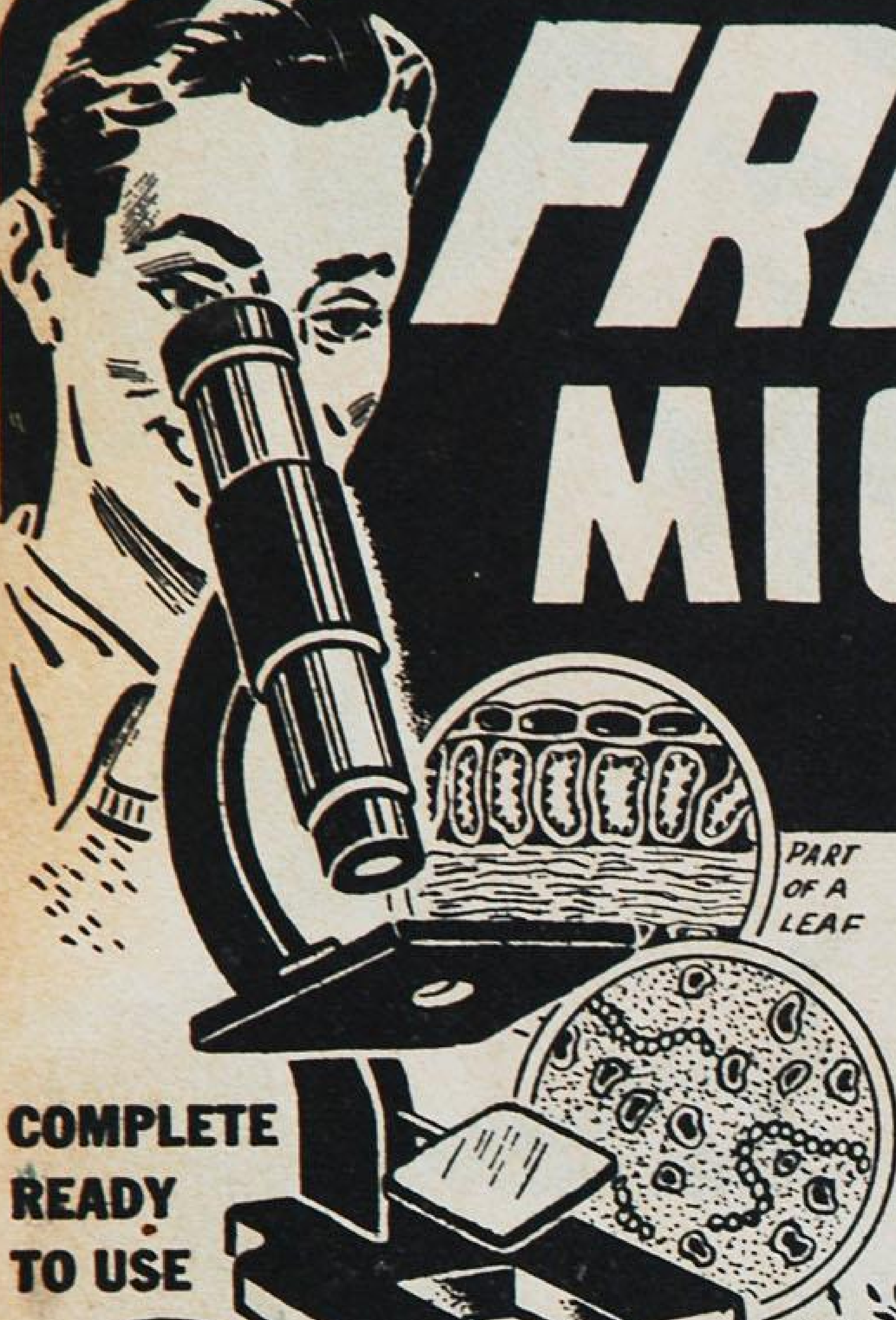

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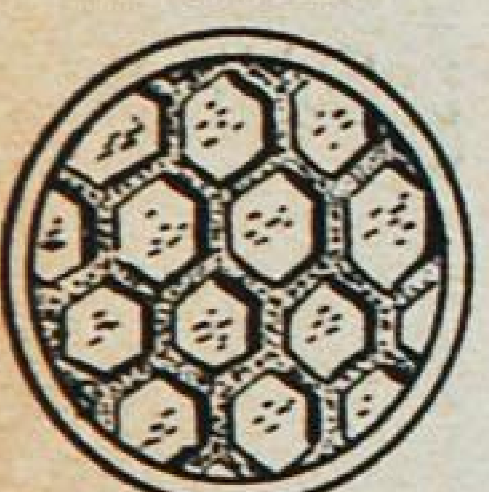

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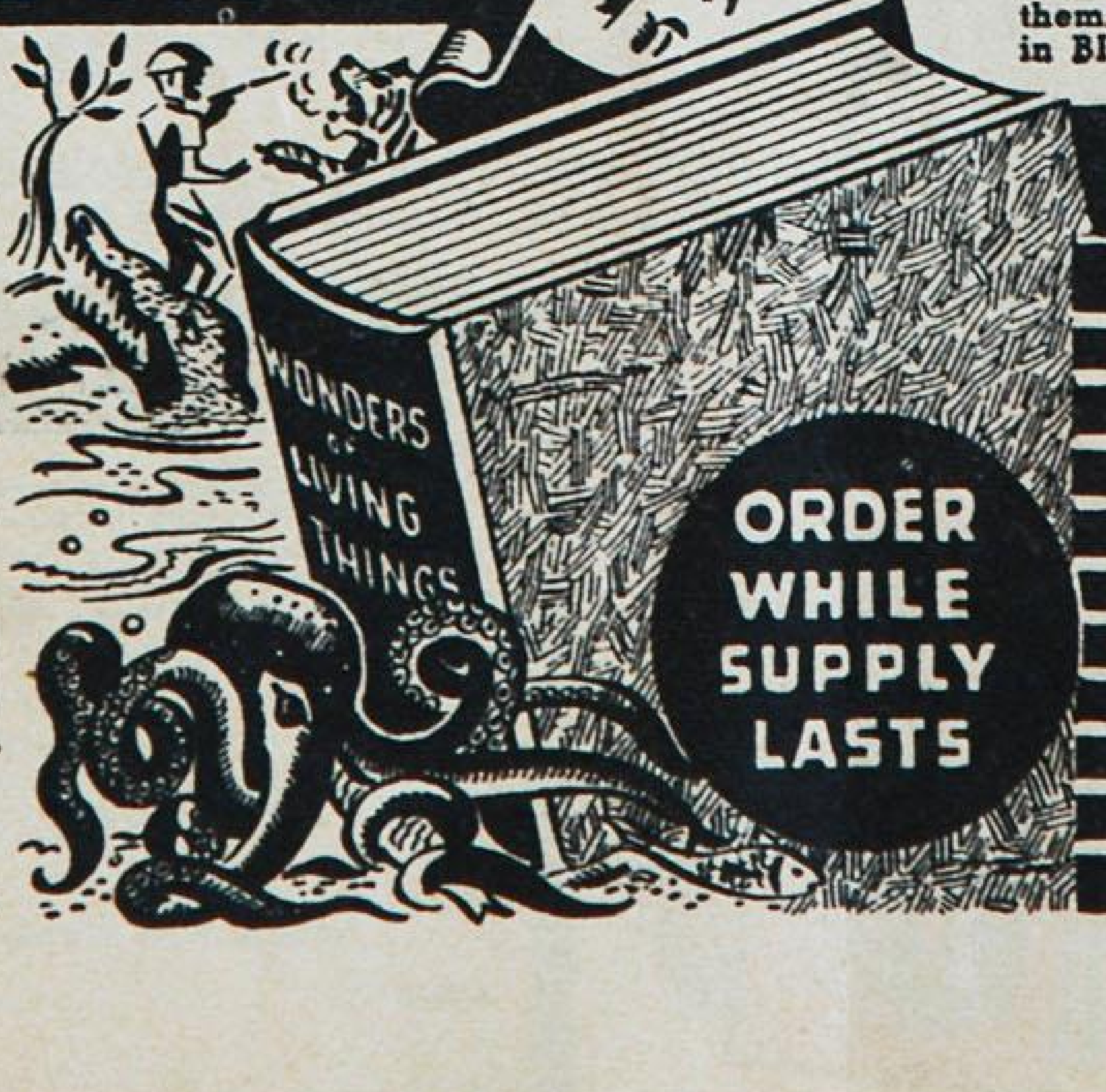

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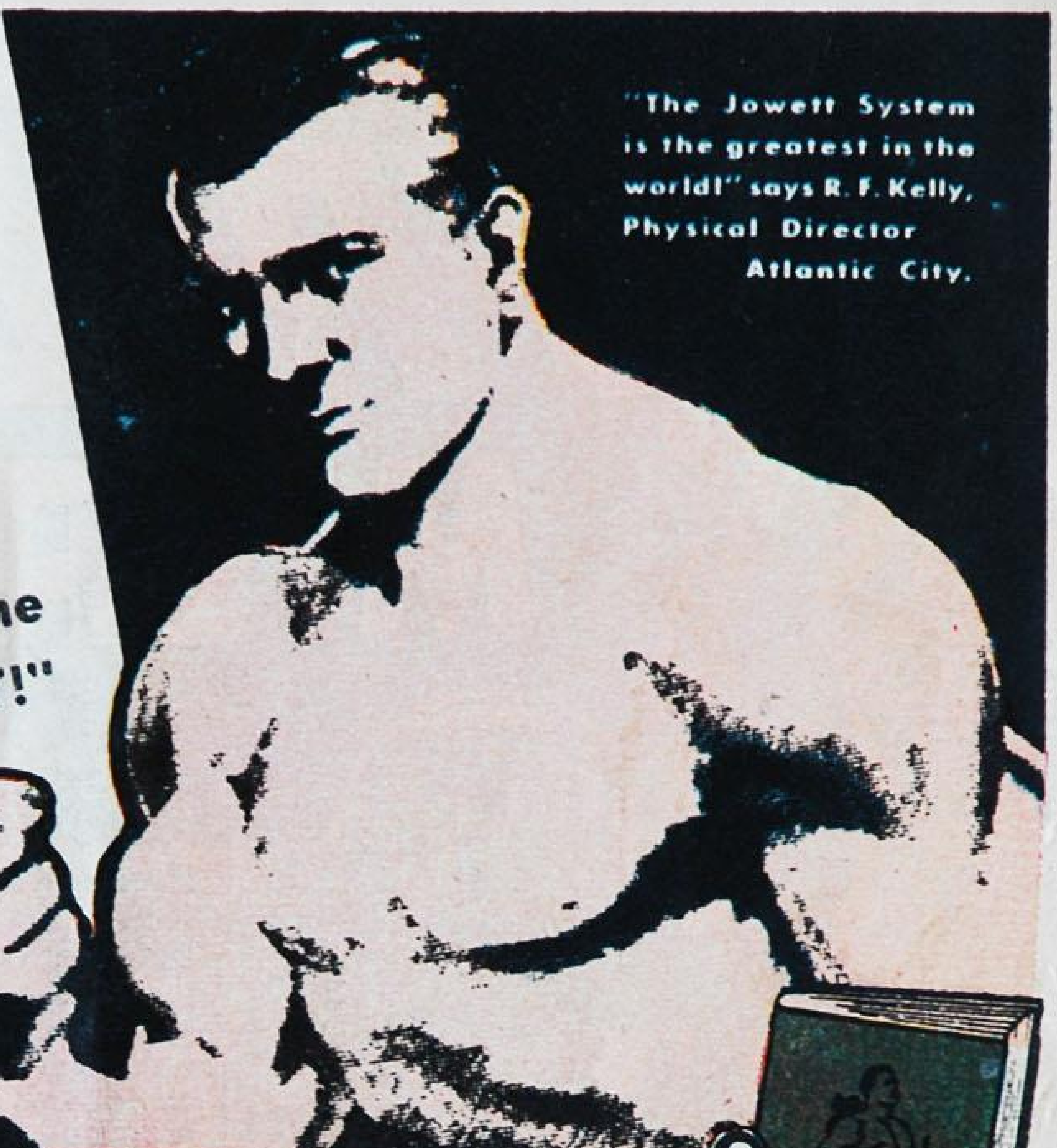

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